

THE SIEGE AT MECCA

A sourcebook for researchers

**Declassified State Department Cables
concerning the 1979 attack on the Grand Mosque**

J.M. Berger, Editor

INTELWIRE PRESS

THE SIEGE ON MECCA SOURCEBOOK

In 1979, several hundred Islamic militants seized the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the holiest site in Islam. The event was jarring enough at the time, but its long-term consequences were nearly unimaginable.

Just months earlier, the Iranian Revolution had rocked the Muslim world. Although the regime created by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was Shi'ite, the birth of a new Islamic state stirred Sunnis to dreams of greater glory as well.

Against that backdrop, a small movement of radical Sunnis within Saudi Arabia began plotting a literally apocalyptic showdown.

Juhayman al-Utaybi led a band of militants according to an extreme theological strain that had come out of Egypt and mutated unpredictably. Utaybi had appointed himself as the herald to an Islamic messiah figure known as the *mahdi*. The concept of *mahdi* had originated among the Shi'as, but was subsequently co-opted by certain Sunni sects, albeit with substantial modifications and an inconsistent interpretation.

With anywhere between 300 and 600 followers in tow, Utaybi and his *mahdi*-designate (one Muhammad bin Abdullah) stormed the Grand Mosque on Nov. 20, 1979 -- the first day of the new millennium according to the Islamic calendar.

The band of militants intended to launch the apocalypse; the attack was designed to topple the Saudi government and meet certain prophetic requirements (as the militants imagined them) about the start of the "End Times." Although not in the way they intended, the militants were indeed a herald of things to come.

In real and direct ways, the militants at Mecca were precursors to al Qaeda. The theological justifications they offered for violence against the Saudi regime were strikingly similar to those later presented by Osama bin Laden. In fact, as the documents in this book reveal, bin Laden himself may have been linked to the group. Also revealed for the first time in these pages -- the link between the Mecca siege and an Egyptian extremist sect believed to have influenced Ayman Al-Zawahiri, whose standing in al Qaeda today is equal to that of bin Laden.

In 1979 (as in 2001), the Western mind was largely unprepared for this new brand of militant Islam. The documents in this book are cables from the State Department's Jeddah embassy -- a minute-by-minute account of the siege. They reveal the profound confusion and concern felt by the government's most experienced Middle Eastern diplomats.

From the first moments, in which virtually no information was available, rampant speculation broke out as to who was behind the attack, with initial suspicions pointing toward Iran or Communist South Yemen. As it turned out, the group was mostly

comprised of Saudis, with a strong representation from Egypt, Jordan, Somalia and other regions. Two Americans were members of the group and took part in the siege.

The first section of this book follows the two-week siege through agonizing days of uncertainty. The cables reveal how the Saudi government lied to the public and to the United States about the gravity of the situation and the status of the situation on the ground. The documents also reveal, for the first time, how the U.S. used American contractors working for the Saudi government to collect intelligence on the siege.

The second section of the book focuses on the investigation and aftermath of the attack, its political ramifications and its link to an Egyptian sect known as Takfir Wal Hijra, which has taken on a prominent role in the modern jihadist movement.

The documents herein were obtained from the State Department through the Freedom of Information Act. They are presented in roughly chronological order, with a general table of contents and minimal commentary.

I hope to follow this work with a comprehensive book and/or television documentary on the siege itself, using the documents as a base and expanding from my own reporting.

For now, however, I believe the priority is to make this material available as expeditiously as possible, given the increasing understanding among students of terrorism and jihadi culture of the importance of this historical event.

For updates on this material and news about the release of a companion volume, please visit my Web site INTELWIRE.com.

--- *J.M. Berger*

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ACTION NEA-11

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MCT-02 OPR-02 A-02 ACDA-12 ANAE-00 /084 W
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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 7971

DEPT ALSO PASS FLASH TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

E O 12065: GDS 11/20/85 (PLACKE, JAMES A.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA
SUBJ: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE, MECCA

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED REPORT FROM U.S. CITIZEN EMPLOYEE OF AMERICAN FIRM THAT GROUP OF IRANIANS THIS MORNING OCCUPIED GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA (THE HOLIEST PLACE IN ISLAM) WHICH IS NOW SURROUNDED BY SAUDI SOLDIERS. THERE HAS BEEN HEAVY FIRING AND SEVERAL SAUDI SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN KILLED. SOURCE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM COMPANY OPERATION LOCATED OUTSIDE MECCA.

3. ANOTHER SOURCE, WHO SPOKE WITH A RELATIVE INSIDE MECCA, ALSO REPORTS DISTURBANCES. MOSQUE IS OCCUPIED BY GROUP OF
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300 TO 600 WHO COULD BE IRANIANS OR YEMENIS, AND IS SUR-
ROUNDED BY SAUDI ARMY; GUNFIRE IS BEING EXCHANGED.

4. CONTACTS IN SAUDI MEDIA RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE MUCH INFOR-

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 15 JUN 2006 200505106

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MATION OVER PHONE, BUT CONFIRM THERE IS A "SERIOUS DISTURBANCE"
IN MECCA INVOLVING GUNFIRE.

5. COMMENT: TODAY IS FIRST DAY OF MUHARRIM IN SAUDI
ARABIA (FIRST DAY OF NEW YEAR, AND NEW CENTURY IN POPULAR
EYES). SINCE FIRST TEN DAYS OF THIS MONTH ARE A PERIOD OF
GREAT RELIGIOUS FERVOR AMONG SHIA, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE
IRANIANS ARE INVOLVED. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS NOT YET CONFIRMED
THIS. COMMANDER OF SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD GAVE ORDERS THIS
MORNING TO TRIPLE SECURITY GUARD ON EMBASSY (WE BELIEVE AFTER
OCCUPATION OF MOSQUE OCCURRED). END COMMENT.

6. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER AS SITUATION DEVELOPS.
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ACTION NEA-11

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L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 7981

DEPT ALSO PASS NIACT IMMEDIATE TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/20/85 (PLACKE, JAMES A.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS ASCE, SA
SUBJECT: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE, MECCA

REF: JIDDA 7971

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY MILITARY COMMANDER
FOR WESTERN PROVINCE THAT MOSQUE IS STILL BEING OCCUPIED
BY INTRUDERS. MINISTER OF INTERIOR'S OFFICE TELLS US
THAT PRINCE NAIF IS AT THE SCENE. IRANIAN
EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW IF IRANIANS ARE INVOLVED IN
OCCUPATION, BUT THEY SAID THEY WERE INVESTIGATING AND
WOULD INFORM US WHAT THEY LEARN.

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3. DANISH AND BRITISH EMBASSIES HAVE INFORMED US THAT
ALL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE OUTSIDE THE
KINGDOM HAS BEEN CUT. WE TESTED THIS BY ATTEMPTING

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TO PLACE TELEPHONE CALL TO THE U.S. AND WERE INFORMED
THAT LINES WERE OUT OF ORDER.

4. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT SAG SUSPENSION OF
COMMUNICATION WITH OUTSIDE IS TO KEEP STORY OFF
INTERNATIONAL NEWSWIRE UNTIL SITUATION IN MECCA
HAS BEEN RESLOVED.
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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SY-05 SYE-00 A-02 OPR-02 OC-06
CCO-00 SS-15 PM-06 SP-02 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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IO-14 SSO-00 /076 W

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USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 7993

DEPT ALSO PASS TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

E O 12065: GDS 11/20/85 (WEST, JOHN C.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AFSP, SA
SUBJ: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRND MOSQUE, MECCA

REFS: A) JIDDA 7971, B) JIDDA 7981

1. S-ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY. OCCUPATION OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA CON-
TINUES BY AS YET UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS. SAG HAS SEALED OFF
MECCA. NORTHERN BORDERS CLOSED TO NON-SAUDIS. SAG APPEARS
PREPARING TO EXPEL INTRUDERS FROM THE MOSQUE WITH FORCE IF
NECESSARY. EMBASSY HAS TIGHTENED ITS SECURITY. JIDDA REMAINS
NORMAL. END SUMMARY.

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3. EMBASSY IS CONTINUING TO RECEIVED INFORMATION -- SOME
OF IT CONFLICTING -- CONCERNING OCCUPATION OF THE GRAND MOSQUE
IN MECCA. IT IS STILL NOT KNOWN FOR CERTAIN WHO IS OCCUPYING
MOSQUE, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS THEY ARE VERY WELL ARMED. WE HAVE

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RECEIVED REPORTS INDICATING OCCUPIERS COULD BE IRANIAN OR YEMENI, ALTHOUGH SOME REPORTS FROM SAUDI SOURCES STATE OCCUPIERS ARE SAUDI TRIBESMEN SUPPORTING SOME AS YET UNIDENTIFIED GROUP OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS.

4. LATEST VERSION OF EVENTS RELATED TO EMBASSY LOCAL NATIONAL BY FRIEND WHO STATES HE WAS IN MOSQUE AT TIME OF OCCUPATION. ACCORDING TO THIS INFORMANT WHO SAYS HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM MOSQUE, NUMBER OF ARMED WORSHIPPERS CLOSED DOORS TO MOSQUE FOLLOWING EARLY MORNING PRAYERS (0518 LOCAL) AND ANNOUNCED TO CROWD IN ARABIC THAT "MECCA, UMEDINA AND JIDDA WERE NOW IN THEIR HANDS ". FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO HOURS, CIRCUMAMBULATION OF THE KA'ABA WAS PREVENTED BUT LATER ALLOWED TO RESUME. AT ONE POINT IN THE EARLY MORNING, A SHOOT-OUT WITH SAUDI SECURITY PERSONNEL OCCURRED, AND INFORMANT INDICATED THAT 5-7 POLICEMEN WERE KILLED. IN ADDITION, A FEW PILGRIMS IN MOSQUE WERE WOUNDED IN CROSS-FIRE.

5. IN ANOTHER REPORT, TWO AMERICANS PILOTING SAUDI CIVIL DEFENSE HELICOPTER OVER MECCA TOLD POLOFF THIS AFTERNOON THAT THEY WERE AROUSED AT THEIR JIDDA BASE AT 0630 HOURS WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO AIRFIELD NEAR MECCA WHERE THEY EMBARKED TWO SAUDI GID OFFICERS. AT THEIR INSTRUCTION, HELICOPTER BEGAN MAKING LOW PASSES OVER MECCA IN VICINITY OF GRAND MOSQUE BEGINNING AT ABOUT 0900 HOURS. ON THEIR FIRST SWING OVER MOSQUE, EVERYTHING SEEMED NORMAL. IN APPARENT CONFIRMATION OF REPORT IN PARA 4, APPROX 1000 WERE SEEN CIRCUMAMBULATING HOLY KA'ABA AND THERE WAS MODERATE TRAFFIC CIRCULATING IN STREETS AROUND MOSQUE ITSELF. SAUDI SECURITY FORCES WERE IN

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EVIDENCE IN LARGE NUMBERS, HOWEVER, AND HAD TAKEN UP POSITIONS ON STREETS AND ROOFTOPS AROUND MOSQUE.

6. AT APPROX 1145 LOCAL, PILOTS STATED THEY MADE ANOTHER LOW PASS OVER MOSQUE ON INSTRUCTION OF SAUDI OFFICERS ON BOARD. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN COURTYARD OF MOSQUE HAD DWINDLED TO ONLY ONE OR TWO HUNDRED, ALTHOUGH THERE APPEARED TO BE LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE IN SHADOWS TO ONE SIDE OF COURTYARD. AS HELICOPTER FLEW TO NE OF THE MOSQUE, THREE VERY DISTINCT RIFLE SHOTS WERE HEARD. PILOTS SAID THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE TARGET OF SHOTS AND IMMEDIATELY INCREASED ALTITUDE. PILOTS STATE THAT SITUATION ON MOSQUE FOLLOWING THESE SHOTS CHANGED PERCEPTIBLY. TRAFFIC IN AREA WAS IMMEDIATELY CLEARED, AND ROADBLOCKS WERE THROWN UP IN STREETS IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING MOSQUE. FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THEIR SEVERAL PASSES OVER

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MOSQUE, COURTYARD APPEARED DEVOID OF HUMANITY. PILOTS SAID THAT SAUDI COMMANDER OF THEIR HELICOPTER WING, A CAPTAIN ALWANI, TOLD THEM MOSQUE WAS OCCUPIED BY "IRANIANS", AND THAT SECURITY FORCES INTENDED CLEAR THEM OUT. SAUDI OFFICER STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ARMED INCIDENT AT MOSQUE FOLLOWING EARLY MORNING PRAYER AND THAT OCCUPATION OF MOSQUE

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HAD FOLLOWED. OCCUPATION WAS CONTINUING AND THIS WAS REASON HELICOPTER REQUIRED IN MECCA.

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ACTION NEA-11

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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 JIDDA 07993

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - (PARAS RENUMBERED.)

DEPT ALSO PASS TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

7. RELIABLE SOURCES REPORTED IN LATE AFTERNOON THAT INTERMITTANT GUNFIRE IS BEING EXCHANGED WITH THE GROUP OCCUPYING MOSQUE. THESE SOURCES ESTIMATED THAT APPROX 300 PERSONS ARE OCCUPYING MOSQUE WITH 100 OTHERS ALSO IN BUILDING. OCCUPIERS APPARENTLY DEMANDED AT ONE POINT THIS MORNING THAT

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RADIO MECCA BE TURNED OVER TO THEM. THE SAUDI FRONTIER WITH JORDAN, IRAQ AND KUWAIT HAS NOW BEEN CLOSED TO ALL NON-SAUDIS. HOWEVER, SAUDI AIRLINES HAS NOT INTERRUPTED ITS FLIGHT SCHEDULE, ALTHOUGH RESERVE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN PLACED ON STAND-BY.

8. SPECIAL SECURITY FORCES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RATHER THAN NATIONAL GUARDSMEN HAVE REPORTEDLY
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BEEN ORDERED TO RESTORE ORDER, BY FORCE IF NECESSARY. CONSIDERABLE MILITARY AIR TRAFFIC (C-130 TRANSPORTS) REPORTED AT BOTH JIDDA AND RIYADH AND SECURITY HAS BEEN TIGHTENED AT ALL MILITARY FACILITIES. IN ADDITION, MODA HOSPITALS IN JIDDA AND RIYADH ARE ON FULL ALERT. US HELICOPTER PILOTS CONFIRM THAT BOTH DEFENSE MINISTER PRINCE SULTAN AND INTERIOR MINISTER PRINCE NAYIF HAVE BEEN ON THE SCENE IN MECCA SINCE EARLY MORNING HOURS. GENERAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR PRINCE TURKI AL-FAYSAL IS RETURNING FROM TUNIS.

9. SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD UNIT WHICH SECURES EMBASSY COMPOUND PERIMETER HAS BEEN AUGMENTED. EMBASSY HAS ALSO TAKEN OTHER MEASURES TO HEIGHTEN SECURITY INTERNALLY AND HAS CAUTIONED ALL EMPLOYEES AGAINST UNNECESSARY MOVEMENT. ATMOSPHERE IN JIDDA REMAINS NORMAL. WEST

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DHAHRAN 1850

EO 12065: GDS 11/20/85 (LINDSTROM, RALPH E) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA
SUBJECT: IRANIAN AGITATION OF SAUDI SHIAS AND MECCA MOSQUE
OCCUPATION

REF: JIDDA 7971 (NOTAL)

1. S- ENTIRE TEXT).

2. INFORMATION REPORTED REFTTEL RE OCCUPATION OF GRAND
MOSQUE IN MECCA MAY BE RELATED TO INFORMATION WE HAVE
JUST OBTAINED FROM RELIABLE COMPANY SOURCES RE RECENT
IRANIAN ATTEMPTS TO AGITATE SAUDI SHI'AS.

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3. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, SAUDI AUTHORITIES
EXPERIENCED UNUSUAL DIFFICULTY THIS YEAR IN KEEPING
TRACK OF IRANIANS WHO ENTERED THE KINGDOM FOR THE HAJJ.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 15 JUN 2006 200505106

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AT ONE POINT THEY DISCOVERED THAT IRANIAN BUSES WERE ARRIVING IN MECCA FOR THE HAJJ WITH ONLY ABOUT HALF THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN RECORDED AS ENTERING THE COUNTRY AT THE KUWAIT BORDER.

4. SAUDIS THEREFORE INVESTIGATED AND FOUND THAT BUSES HAD BEEN DROPPING OFF ARABIC SPEAKING MULLAHS TO PREACH IN MOSQUES IN AL-HASA AND QATIF AREAS OF EASTERN PROVINCE, WHICH IS HOME OF SAUDI ARABIA'S 125,000 SHI'A MINORITY (ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF SAUDI POPULATION IN PROVINCE). ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, POLICE HAD TAKEN PROMPT AND SOMETIMES BRUTAL ACTION TO ENSURE RETURN AL ALL IRANIAN HAJJIS TO IRAN. (MOSQUE TAKEOVER REPORT SUGGESTS THEY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL). THERE WERE REPORTEDLY NUMEROUS ARRESTS OF SAUDI SHI'AS IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING IRANIANS TO GO HOME.

5. IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE CURRENT MOOD OF SAUDI SHI'AS WHO KEEP VERY MUCH TO THEMSELVES AND RARELY TALK CANDIDLY TO SAUDI SUNNIS OR FOREIGNERS. TO DATE, DESPITE IRANIAN AGITATION AND AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN EQUATION AS RESULT OF TEHRAN EMBASSY TAKEOVER, WE HAVE DISCERNED NO OUTWARD MANIFESTATIONS WHICH WOULD LEAD US TO CHANGE OUR LAST ASSESSMENT OF SAUDI SHI'A EMPLOYEES FROM CATIF (WHO COMMUTE TO DHAHRAN IN A COMMUNALLY OWNED MICRO BUS) REPORTED FOR WORK AS USUAL TODAY). WHILE ARAMCO IS NO LONGER ALLOWED TO KEEP STATISTICS ON RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES, WE ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 6 OR 7
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THOUSAND SHIA'S IN ARAMCO'S WORKFORCE. ARAMCO HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT THERE WERE NO UNUSUAL ABSENCES AMONG THEIR WORKERS TODAY.

6. WHILE SAUDI SHIA'S HAVE CLEARLY TAKEN GREAT PRIDE IN KHOMEINI'S TAKEOVER IN IRAN, THEIR FEELINGS HAVE, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS (THOSE ARRESTED), THUS FAR BEEN CAREFULLY CONFINED WITHIN RELIGIOUS PARAMETERS NOT HARMFUL TO THE SAUDI STATE OR U.S. INTERESTS. OBVIOUSLY LOCAL SHI'A SITUATION WARRANTS CLOSE MONITORING WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO.

7. APPROPRIATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS INCLUDING STEPPED UP PERIMETER PATROLS BY SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD HAVE BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT AT CONSULATE. ARAMCO HAS ALSO TIGHTENED

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 07999 210501Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00
SS-15 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-06 DODE-00 /046 W
-----101602 210503Z /23

O 210425Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE LASHDC IMMEDIATE 8018

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 7999

E O 12065: GDS 11/21/85 (BOVIS, H. EUGENE) OR-P
TAGS: PINS, SA
SUBJ: (C) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE, MECCA

REF: AMMAN 7284

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. GROUP AS YET UNIDENTIFIED SEIZED GRAND MOSQUE (KAABA)
ON MORNING OF NOVEMBER 20 AND WERE STILL IN CONTROL AS OF
NIGHTFALL. SAUDI FORCES HAVE SURROUNDED MOSQUE AND SEALED
OFF AREA. GROUP REPORTED BY SOME TO BE IRANIANS AND BY OTHERS
TO BE SAUDI TRIBAL RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISTS. GROUP ESTIMATED
BY SOME TO NUMBER FROM 300 TO 600. SITUATION IN JIDDA AND
OTHER CITIES IN KINGDOM APPEARS TO BE CALM. WE SUGGEST YOU
TELL CINC JORDAN FORCES THAT WE SEE NO CAUSE FOR ALARM AT
THIS TIME.

3. WE ARE REPEATING TO AMMAN OUR TELEGRAMS SENT ON NOVEMBER
20 ON SUBJECT AND WILL INCLUDE AMMAN AS INFO ADDRESSEE AS
WE REPORT ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08042 211423Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 /001 W
-----104352 211424Z /41

O 211346Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8031

S E C R E T JIDDA 8042

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EO 12065: RDS-1 11/21/99 (WEST, JOHN C) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, SA
SUBJ: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE MECCA

REF: JIDDA 8041

1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR REFTEL WAS MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AHMED ZAKI YAMANI. WESTD

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 12 JUL 2006 200505106

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PAGE 01 KARACH 06609 211135Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 MCT-02 HA-05 SR-04 AID-05 CCO-00
 FBOE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 SP-02
 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 CA-01 A-02 OCS-06
 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SES-01 SPH-01
 SSM-03 FS-01 PER-01 MMO-01 SYE-00 ANAE-00 /109 W
 -----103448 211140Z /21

Z 211115Z NOV 79
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6741

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 6609

EO 12065: GDS 11/21/85 (POST, RICHARD ST F) OR-M
TAGS: PINS PK
SUBJ: ANTI-US DEMONSTRATIONS IN PAKISTAN

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH ISLAMABAD BY TELEPHONE
LINE TO RESIDENCE OF COUNSELOR HAGERTY WHERE KARACHI
PERSONNEL TRIPPETT, BOWEN AND KELLY ARRIVED HALF-HOUR AGO
HAVING FLOWN UP TO ISLAMABAD VIA DAO AIRCRAFT THIS
AFTERNOON. THEY IN TURN HAVE INTERMITTENT CONTACT WITH
EMBASSY VIA WALKIE-TALKIE RADIO. LATEST REPORT FROM
EMBASSY WAS THAT ALL PERSONNEL ARE SAFE IN VAULT AREA AND
MORALE IS GOOD.

3. LAHORE REPORTS THAT MOB GATHERED OUTSIDE AMERICAN
CENTER AT LUNCHTIME. POLICE TRIED TO DISPERSE THEM WITH
TEAR GAS WHICH ONLY SERVED TO INFURIATE MOB WHICH SURGED
OVER POLICE GUARD, BROKE THROUGH IRON DOORS, AND SET
CENTER AFIRE, THEN DESTROYED VEHICLES PARKED OUTSIDE.
POLICE DISAPPEARED. NO AMCITS PRESENT, FSNS APPARENTLY
ABLE TO EVACUATE IN TIME. CENTER NOW GUTTED. CONGEN
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PAGE 02 KARACH 06609 211135Z

HAS INFO THAT A MOB NOW MOVING DOWN MALL IN DIRECTION
CONGEN OFFICE.

4. AMERICAN EXPRESS OFFICE IN KARACHI HAD SIGNS TORN DOWN.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
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AMEX REPORTS THEIR OFFICE IN RAWALPINDI ATTACKED AND SET AFIRE. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE CONTACT AMERICAN CENTER IN RAWALPINDI BUT HAVE REPORT FROM CITIBANK REPS THAT THE CENTER WAS SET AFIRE.

5. MEANWHILE, IN KARACHI AT ABOUT TWO PM CROWD OF SOME 150-200 GATHERED IN FRONT OF CONGEN OFFICE, FAILED TO RESPOND TO POLICE WARNING SHOTS, BUT DISPERSED WHEN POLICE USED TEAR GAS. POLICE REPORT THAT 25 BUSLOADS OF DEMONSTRATORS APPARENTLY ORIGINATING IN KARACHI UNIVERSITY AREA WERE STOPPED EN ROUTE TO CITY CENTER AND TURNED BACK. WE HAVE HAD RECENT REPORT THAT CROWD GATHERING IN NORTHEAST PART OF CITY WHICH COULD BE RESURGENCE OF KARACHI UNIVERSITY CROWD. WE ARE ADVISING ALL AMCITS TO STANDFAST AT HOME.

6. FOREIGN OFFICE CAMP OFFICE CALLED AFTER DEMONSTRATION DISPERSED IN KARACHI TO ADVISE THAT ELEMENTS IN KARACHI WERE OF OPINION THAT SEIZURE OF MOSQUE IN MECCA WAS INSTIGATED BY US.

7. LATEST WORD FROM ISLAMABAD IS THAT THERE IS POUNDING ON THE ROOF IN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO BREAK IN. WE HAVE ASKED FOREIGN OFFICE/KARACHI TO RELAY THIS INFO IMMEDIATELY TO AUTHORITIES IN ISLAMABAD.

8. SECOND GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS HAS JUST BEEN TURNED BACK BY POLICE TEAR GAS FROM ATTEMPT TO ENTER CONGEN KARACHI MOTOR POOL AREA.

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08048 211642Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 SS-15 PM-06 INR-10
INRE-00 SP-02 SY-05 SYE-00 OPR-02 /052 W
-----105208 211649Z /41

O 211545Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8035
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 8048

STADIS//////////

FOR SAUNDERS

EO 12065: GDS 11/21/85 (WEST, JOHN C) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA
SUBJ: OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE MECCA

REF: STATE 302084 JIDDA 8043

1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.

2. UPON RECEIPT OF AP FILE REPORT OF PRESIDENT
CARTER'S DENIAL OF KHOMEINI'S INFERENCE THAT US
WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTACK ON MECCA GRAND
MOSQUE, SPECIAL COUNSELOR SABBAGH HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING UN-
SUCCESSFULLY TO GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH MINISTER MOHAMMED
ABDO YAMANI. AS INTERIM MEASURE, SPECIAL COUNSELOR
SABBAGH HAS SPOKEN TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
FOUAD AL FARSI (UNTIL RECENTLY ASSISTANT DEPUTY
MINISTER OF INFORMATION) AND RELAYED REQUEST THAT
SAUDI ARABIA IMMEDIATELY CONFIRM PRESIDENT
CARTER'S DENIAL OF KHOMEINI ALLEGATION.

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 08048 211642Z

3. FARSI PROMISED TO TRACK DOWN YAMANI ASAP
AND TO ARGUE, IN INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED,
FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUANCE OF SAUDI STATEMENT CLEAR-
ING US OF ANY INVOLVEMENT IN MOSQUE ATTACK. WEST

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08047 211646Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SY-05 SYE-00 PM-06 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00
DODE-00 EB-08 MCT-02 SES-01 SSN-02 SPH-01 L-03
USSS-00 OC-06 CCO-00 OCS-06 CA-01 A-02 OPR-02
OMB-01 ACDA-12 ANAE-00 /097 W
-----105224 211703Z /65

O 211550Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8034
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
USMTM DHAHRN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 8047

DEPT ALSO PASS NIACT IMMEDIATE TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/21/79 (PLACKE JAMES A) OR-M
TAGS: PINS ASEC AFSP SA
SUBJ: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE MECCA

1. (S ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SOURCE WITH CONTACT IN MECCA INFORMED EMBASSY AT 1645
LOCAL TIME NOVEMBER 21 THAT ASSULT ON GRAND MOSQUE BY SAUDI
FORCES HAD COMMENCED. OCCUPIERS HAVE BEEN DRIVEN OUT OF LOWER
LEVELS BUT WERE CONTINUING TO FIGHT. EMBASSY HAS ALSO LEARNED,
HOWEVER, THAT AS OF 1630 LOCAL TIME JIDDA MILITARY HOSPITAL IS NOT
YET RECEIVING CASUALTIES AND WAS EVEN SENDING PERSONNEL HOME AT
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 08047 211646Z

END OF NORMAL SHIFT. LOCKHEED OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED EMBASSY
THAT COMPANY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ASKED TO WORK THROUGH WEEKEND
(THURSDAY AND FRIDAY) IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION TO RETAKE MOSQUE.

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3. USMTM HAS INFORMED US THAT SAUDI FORCES HAVE USED 105MM
ROUNDS ON MOSQUE. ONE OF THE MINARETS HAS BEEN HIT AND RED SMOKE
IS POURING OUT OF IT. WEST

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08044 211517Z
ACTION PM-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ADS-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
INRE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SP-02 ACDA-12
/052 W

-----104691 211529Z /65

O 211430Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8033
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
DCR RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 8044

EO 12065: GDS 11/21/85
TAGS: MASS, SA, US
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFO: AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS

1. C ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED TO OBTAIN INFO FOR US USE ONLY AT THIS TIME & IS NOT OCCASIONED BY ANY REQUEST FROM SAUDI AUTHORITIES.
3. IF THE OCCUPATION OF THE GRAND MOSQUE AT MECCA CONTINUES MUCH LONGER IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GOVT OF SAUDI ARABIA (SAG) MAY CALL UPON US FOR EXPEDITIOUS PROVISION OF RIOT CONTROL AGENTS, SUCH AS AIR-DROPPED TEAR GAS CANISTERS & GROUND-MANEUVERABLE ITEMS, IN ORDER TO DRIVE THE DISSIDENTS FROM THE SEIZED BUILDING.
4. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW URGENTLY, THEREFORE, WHAT ITEMS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE THEATRE FOR RAPID DELIVERY TO SAG IF A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IS RECEIVED.

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 08044 211517Z

5. PLS REPLY BY NIACT IMMEDIATE MESSAGE. WEST

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PAGE 01 STATE 301866
ORIGIN SS-05

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /005 R

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APPROVED BY:S/S-O:MFENN

-----101810 210555Z /17

O 210526Z NOV 79 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 301866

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 7981 ACTION STATE INFO BAGHDAD
DHAHRAN RIYADH DAMASCUS KUWAIT MANAMA SANA NOV 20.

QUOTE: S E C R E T JIDDA 7981

DEPT ALSO PASS NIACT IMMEDIATE TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/20/85 (PLACKE, JAMES A.) OR-M

TAGS: PINS ASCE, SA

SUBJECT: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE, MECCA

REF: JIDDA 7971

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY MILITARY COMMANDER
FOR WESTERN PROVINCE THAT MOSQUE IS STILL BEING OCCUPIED
BY INTRUDERS. MINISTER OF INTERIOR'S OFFICE TELLS US
THAT PRINCE NAIF IS AT THE SCENE. IRANIAN
EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW IF IRANIANS ARE INVOLVED IN
OCCUPATION, BUT THEY SAID THEY WERE INVESTIGATING AND
WOULD INFORM US WHAT THEY LEARN.

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3. DANISH AND BRITISH EMBASSIES HAVE INFORMED US THAT
ALL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE OUTSIDE THE
KINGDOM HAS BEEN CUT. WE TESTED THIS BY ATTEMPTING
TO PLACE TELEPHONE CALL TO THE U.S. AND WERE INFORMED

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PAGE 01 STATE 301867
ORIGIN SS-05

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /005 R

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:MFENN
APPROVED BY:S/S-O:MFENN
S/S-O:MFENN

-----126236 240648Z /17

O 210527Z NOV 79
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 301867

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA'S 6,7&8)

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 7993 SENT ACTION STATE DHAHRAN RIYADH
BAGHDAD MANAMA DAMASCUS KUWAIT SANA NOV 20.

QUOTE S E C R E T JIDDA 7993

DEPT ALSO PASS TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

E O 12065: GDS 11/20/85 (WEST,JOHN C.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AFSP, SA
SUBJ: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRND MOSQUE, MECCA

REFS: A) JIDDA 7971, B) JIDDA 7981

1. S-ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY. OCCUPATION OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA CON-
TINUES BY AS YET UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS. SAG HAS SEALED OFF
MECCA. NORTHERN BORDERS CLOSED TO NON-SAUDIS. SAG APPEARS
PREPARING TO EXPEL INTRUDERS FROM THE MOSQUE WITH FORCE IF
NECESSARY. EMBASSY HAS TIGHTENED ITS SECURITY. JIDDA REMAINS
NORMAL. END SUMMARY.

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3. EMBASSY IS CONTINUING TO RECEIVED INFORMATION -- SOME
OF IT CONFLICTING -- CONCERNING OCCUPATION OF THE GRAND MOSQUE
IN MECCA. IT IS STILL NOT KNOWN FOR CERTAIN WHO IS OCCUPYING

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MOSQUE, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS THEY ARE VERY WELL ARMED. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS INDICATING OCCUPIERS COULD BE IRANIAN OR YEMENI, ALTHOUGH SOME REPORTS FROM SAUDI SOURCES STATE OCCUPIERS ARE SAUDI TRIBESMEN SUPPORTING SOME AS YET UNIDENTIFIED GROUP OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS.

4. LATEST VERSION OF EVENTS RELATED TO EMBASSY LOCAL NATIONAL BY FRIEND WHO STATES HE WAS IN MOSQUE AT TIME OF OCCUPATION. ACCORDING TO THIS INFORMANT WHO SAYS HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM MOSQUE, NUMBER OF ARMED WORSHIPPERS CLOSED DOORS TO MOSQUE FOLLOWING EARLY MORNING PRAYERS (0518 LOCAL) AND ANNOUNCED TO CROWD IN ARABIC THAT "MECCA, UMEDINA AND JIDDA WERE NOW IN THEIR HANDS ". FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO HOURS, CIRCUMAMBULATION OF THE KA'ABA WAS PREVENTED BUT LATER ALLOWED TO RESUME. AT ONE POINT IN THE EARLY MORNING, A SHOOT-OUT WITH SAUDI SECURITY PERSONNEL OCCURRED, AND INFORMANT INDICATED THAT 5-7 POLICEMEN WERE KILLED. IN ADDITION, A FEW PILGRIMS IN MOSQUE WERE WOUNDED IN CROSS-FIRE.

5. IN ANOTHER REPORT, TWO AMERICANS PILOTING SAUDI CIVIL DEFENSE HELICOPTER OVER MECCA TOLD POLOFF THIS AFTERNOON THAT THEY WERE AROUSED AT THEIR JIDDA BASE AT 0630 HOURS WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO AIRFIELD NEAR MECCA WHERE THEY EMBARKED TWO SAUDI GID OFFICERS. AT THEIR INSTRUCTION, HELICOPTER BEGAN MAKING LOW PASSES OVER MECCA IN VICINITY OF GRAND MOSQUE BEGINNING AT ABOUT 0900 HOURS. ON THEIR FIRST SWING OVER MOSQUE, EVERYTHING SEEMED NORMAL. IN APPARENT CONFIRMATION OF REPORT IN PARA 4, APPROX 1000 WERE SEEN CIRCUMAMBULATING HOLY KA'ABA AND THERE WAS MODERATE TRAFFIC CIRCULATING IN

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STREETS AROUND MOSQUE ITSELF. SAUDI SECURITY FORCES WERE IN EVIDENCE IN LARGE NUMBERS, HOWEVER, AND HAD TAKEN UP POSITIONS ON STREETS AND ROOFTOPS AROUND MOSQUE.

6. AT APPROX 1145 LOCAL, PILOTS STATED THEY MADE ANOTHER LOW PASS OVER MOSQUE ON INSTRUCTION OF SAUDI OFFICERS ON BOARD. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN COURTYARD OF MOSQUE HAD DWINDLED TO ONLY ONE OR TWO HUNDRED, ALTHOUGH THERE APPEARED TO BE LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE IN SHADOWS TO ONE SIDE OF COURTYARD. AS HELICOPTER FLEW TO NE OF THE MOSQUE, THREE VERY DISTINCT RIFLE SHOTS WERE HEARD. PILOTS SAID THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE TARGET OF SHOTS AND IMMEDIATELY INCREASED ALTITUDE. PILOTS STATE THAT SITUATION ON MOSQUE FOLLOWING THESE SHOTS CHANGED PERCEPTIBLY. TRAFFIC IN AREA WAS IMMEDIATELY CLEARED, AND ROADBLOCKS WERE THROWN UP IN STREETS IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING

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MOSQUE. FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THEIR SEVERAL PASSES OVER MOSQUE, COURTYARD APPEARED DEVOID OF HUMANITY. PILOTS SAID THAT SAUDI COMMANDER OF THEIR HELICOPTER WING, A CAPTAIN ALWANI, TOLD THEM MOSQUE WAS OCCUPIED BY "IRANIANS", AND THAT SECURITY FORCES INTENDED CLEAR THEM OUT. SAUDI OFFICER STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ARMED INCIDENT AT MOSQUE FOLLOWING EARLY MORNING PRAYER AND THAT OCCUPATION OF MOSQUE HAD FOLLOWED. OCCUPATION WAS CONTINUING AND THIS WAS REASON HELICOPTER REQUIRED IN MECCA.

7. RELIABLE SOURCES REPORTED IN LATE AFTERNOON THAT INTERMITTANT GUNFIRE IS BEING EXCHANGED WITH THE GROUP OCCUPYING MOSQUE. THESE SOURCES ESTIMATED THAT APPROX 300 PERSONS ARE OCCUPYING MOSQUE WITH 100 OTHERS ALSO IN BUILDING. OCCUPIERS APPARENTLY DEMANDED AT ONE POINT THIS MORNING THAT RADIO MECCA BE TURNED OVER TO THEM. THE SAUDI FRONTIER WITH JORDAN, IRAQ AND KUWAIT HAS NOW BEEN CLOSED TO ALL NON-SAUDIS. HOWEVER, SAUDI AIRLINES HAS NOT INTERRUPTED ITS FLIGHT SCHEDULE, ALTHOUGH RESERVE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN PLACED ON STAND-BY.

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8. SPECIAL SECURITY FORCES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RATHER THAN NATIONAL GUARDSMEN HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ORDERED TO RESTORE ORDER, BY FORCE IF NECESSARY. CONSIDERABLE MILITARY AIR TRAFFIC (C-130 TRANSPORTS) REPORTED AT BOTH JIDDA AND RIYADH AND SECURITY HAS BEEN TIGHTENED AT ALL MILITARY FACILITIES. IN ADDITION, MODA HOSPITALS IN JIDDA AND RIYADH ARE ON FULL ALERT. US HELICOPTER PILOTS CONFIRM THAT BOTH DEFENSE MINISTER PRINCE SULTAN AND INTERIOR MINISTER PRINCE NAYIF HAVE BEEN ON THE SCENE IN MECCA SINCE THE EARLY MORNING HOURS. GENERAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR PRINCE TURKI AL-FAYSAL IS RETURNING FROM TUNIS.

9. SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD UNIT WHICH SECURES EMBASSY COMPOUND PERIMETER HAS BEEN AUGMENTED. EMBASSY HAS ALSO TAKEN OTHER MEASURES TO HEIGHTEN SECURITY INTERNALLY AND HAS CAUTIONED ALL EMPLOYEES AGAINST UNNECESSARY MOVEMENT. ATMOSPHERE IN JIDDA REMAINS NORMAL. WEST UNQUOTE VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 302175
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 EUR-12 ADS-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10
 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SY-05
 SYE-00 MCT-02 /069 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:HSCHAFER
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:RPECK
S/S-O:RSTEVENS

-----106001 211853Z /75
O 211843Z NOV 79 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 302175

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/21/85 (SCHAFER, HOWARD)

TAGS: PEPR, US, PK

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON US FACILITIES IN PAKISTAN

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. GENERAL ZIA HAS ALLEGED TO US AND BRITS THAT
INTERNATIONAL RADIO BROADCASTS REPORTING U.S. PARTICIPATION
IN SEIZURE OF MECCA MOSQUE HAD CONTRIBUTED TO INFLAMING
OF POPULAR PASSIONS RESULTING IN ATTACK ON U.S. FACILITIES
IN PAKISTAN. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED ALL INDIA RADIO
AND BBC.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CHECKING SOONEST TO ESTABLISH
WHETHER SUCH A BROADCAST WAS IN FACT MADE BY BBC. IF SO,
OBTAIN TEXT AND TIME OF BROADCAST. VANCE

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08041 211527Z
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 ANAE-00 /031 W
-----104771 211536Z /41

O 211345Z NOV 79D
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8030
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 8041

EXDIS DECAPTIONED

EO 12065: RDS-1 11/21/99 (WEST, JOHN C) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA
SUBJ: (U) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE, MECCA

REF: JIDDA 8039

1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA WAS SEIZED BY A SAUDI
RELIGIOUS FANATIC, MUHAMMAD ABDALLAH, 26 YEARS OLD, A MEMBER
OF THE UTAYBA TRIBE. HE HAS APPROX 300 WELL-ARMED
PERSONS WITH HIM, 13 OF WHICH HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY SAUDI
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AUTHORITIES.

THE CAPTURED GROUP INCLUDED AT LEAST ONE
PAKISTANI. THERE IS NO RPT NO DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN
AND MUHAMMAD AND HIS FOLLOWERS DENY ANY KHOMEINI INFLUENCE IN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 15 JUN 2006 200505106

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THEIR ACTIONS. THERE ARE SEVERAL THOUSAND PILGRIMS STILL IN MOSQUE DESPITE FACT THAT MUHAMMAD'S FORCES ALLOWED APPROX 5,000 TO LEAVE LAST EVENING (NOV 20). IN ADDITION, SEVERAL ESCAPED. SAUDI AUTHORITIES AT THIS TIME DO NOT CONSIDER THIS SEIZURE TO BE OF MAJOR POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE ALTHOUGH THEY ARE REACTING STRONGLY SO AS TO BE PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY. THE FIGHTING BETWEEN THE SECURITY FORCES SURROUNDING THE MOSQUE AND THOSE INSIDE WAS PARTICULARLY FIERCE LAST NIGHT BUT TODAY SEEMS TO HAVE CALMED SOMEWHAT AS OF ONE O'CLOCK LOCAL TIME. END SUMMARY.

3. I WAS ABLE TO GET FROM A KNOWLEDGEABLE CABINET MINISTER A COMPLETE UP-TO-DATE STORY ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE SEIZURE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE AT MECCA. THE MINISTER SAID THAT JUST AFTER MORNING PRAYERS, A YOUNG MAN NAMED MUHAMMAD ABDALLAH ALONG WITH SOME FOLLOWERS VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED TO NUMBER FROM A MINIMUM OF 200 TO A MAXIMUM OF 500 SEIZED THE HOLY MOSQUE.

4. ACCORDING TO MINISTER, THERE IS A SPECIAL RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE ATTACHED TO THE SEIZURE AT THIS TIME. AS HE EXPLAINED IT TO ME, MUSLIMS GENERALLY BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE A SECOND COMING OF JESUS AND SOME BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE A FALSE JESUS PRECEDING THE REAL JESUS. STILL OTHERS BELIEVE THAT A MAHDI WILL APPEAR AS A FORERUNNER TO BOTH OF THESE EVENTS. ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY SET FORTH IN THE QUR'AN, THE TRADITIONAL BELIEF IS THAT A MAHDI WILL APPEAR ON THE FIRST DAY OF A NEW CENTURY IN MECCA AND THAT HE WILL REMAIN IN MECCA FOR A TIME AND THEN DISAPPEAR LATER TO

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REAPPEAR IN MEDINA.

5. MUHAMMAD ABDALLAH IS WELL KNOWN TO THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES. HE IS REPORTED TO BE 26 YEARS OF AGE AND OF IMPOSING APPEARANCE AND PERSONALITY. HE ATTENDED SHARIA SCHOOL IN RIYADH FOR APPROX THREE YEARS BUT DID NOT FINISH. HE WAS IMPRISONED FOR APPROX FOUR MONTHS BECAUSE OF ACTIVITIES INIMICAL TO GOVT. WHEN RELEASED, HE RETURNED SOUTH TO HIS HOME TRIBE.

6. FOLLOWING MORNING PRAYERS ON NOV 20, HE APPEARED AT THE GRAND MOSQUE AND TOLD THE IMAM THAT HE WAS THE MAHDI. HIS FOLLOWERS THEN SEIZED CONTROL PUTTING TWO GUARDS AT EACH OF THE 26 DOORS INTO THE MOSQUE. PREVIOUSLY, THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO BRING IN TRUCKS LOADED WITH ARMS AND DATES FOR FOOD. IN

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THIS SEIZURE, ARMED SENTRIES WERE SENT TO THE ROOF OF THE MOSQUE AND INTO THE MINARETS. THE MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT THE MUSLIM CUSTOM ON NEW YEAR'S DAY WAS TO GO TO EARLY MORNING PRAYERS, THEN VISIT THE ELDERLY MEMBERS OF FAMILY IN THE SURROUNDING AREA. THUS THERE WERE SEVERAL THOUSAND (ESTIMATED BY THE MINISTER TO BE AS MANY AS 40,000-50,000) PEOPLE IN THE MOSQUE AT THAT TIME. AFTER THE SEIZURE SOME OF THE WORSHIPPERS ENGAGED MUHAMMAD AND HIS FOLLOWERS IN CONVERSATION. ONE ASKED IF THIS ACTION WERE INSPIRED BY THE IRANIANS. MUHAMMAD SCORNFULLY AND EMPHATICALLY SAID, "NO." ONE OF HIS FOLLOWERS

D
ADDED THAT THE IANIANS WERE NOT TRUE MUSLIMS AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS ACTION. IT IS THE MINISTER'S OPINION THAT THESE ANSWERS WERE SINCERE AND THAT THE INDIVIDUALS IN QUESTION LACKED THE CAPACITY TO MISLEAD.

7. THE MINISTER HAS A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE INCIDENT, SINCE SOME 45 MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY ARE AMONG THOSE BEING HELD IN THE MOSQUE. HE SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING TELEPHONE CALLS EVERY 15 MINUTES FROM PEOPLE STATIONED IN HOUSES AROUND THE MOSQUE. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS BEEN ABLE
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TO HEAR THE SOUND OF FIRING WHILE TALKING ON TELEPHONE AND THE FIRING REACHED A CRESCENDO LAST EVENING BUT IS MUCH QUIETER NOW. TWO OF THE PEOPLE WHO ESCAPED FROM MOSQUE HAVE COME TO MINISTER'S HOUSE. ONE WAS THERE DURING MEETING, ALTHOUGH I DID NOT ENGAGE HIM IN CONVERSATION. THE MINISTER ADDED THAT THOSE BEING HELD WERE NOT BEING THREATENED OR MISTREATED BUT THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IS A LACK OF SANITARY FACILITIES WHICH HE SAYS ARE NON-EXISTENT IN THE MOSQUE.

8. THE MINISTER SAID THAT LAST EVENING 13 OF THE INTRUDERS WERE CAPTURED, ONE OF WHOM WAS A PAKISTANI. THE REST WERE PROBABLY MEMBERS OF THE UTAYBA TRIBE. ACCORDING TO THE PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE, THERE WERE A FEW NON-SAUDIS INVOLVED BUT THE GREAT MAJORITY WERE FROM THE UTAYBA TRIBE PLUS SOME FROM THE WADI AL-DAWASIR.

9. THE MINISTER DID NOT THINK THAT THE ACTION HAD A GREAT DEAL OF POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE, ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE HAD NOT HAD A CHANCE TO ASSESS THE FULL IMPLICATIONS. HE STATED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE UTAYBA TRIBE WERE VERY STRONG FUNDAMENTALIST MUSLIMS WHO LACKED SOPHISTICATED LEADERSHIP SUFFICIENT TO TRANSLATE THEIR RELIGIOUS

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PRINCIPLES INTO OVERTHROW OF A CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

10. THE MINISTER HAD HEARD REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES AT MEDINA BUT STATED THAT HE HAD CALLED SEVERAL PEOPLED WHO HAD PRAYED IN THE MOSQUE THROUGHOUT THE DAY ON NOV 20 AND HAD SEEN NO DISRUPTIONS OR UNDUE INCIDENTS. HE SAID THAT IF THERE WERE ANY DISTRUBANCES, THE POLICE HAD EVIDENTLY STOPPED THE TROUBLEMAKERS BEFORE THEY WERE ABLE TO ENTER THE MOSQUE. (SEPARATELY, WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN SEVERAL, SEEMINGLY CORROBRATORY, REPORTS OF SOME MINOR DIS-

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TURBANCES IN MEDINA ON NOV 20.)

11. I ASKED THE MINISTER WHAT HE THOUGH THE RESULTS OF THE TAKEOVER WOULD BE, AND HE REPLIED RATHER CALMLY: "SOONER OR LATER THEY WILL BE CAPTURED AND BEHEADED." WEST

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PAGE 01 STATE 301868
ORIGIN SS-05

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APPROVED BY:S/S-O:MFENN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 301868

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 7971 ACTION STATE INFO BAGHDAD
KUWAIT DHAHRAN MANAMA DAMASCUS SANA RIYADH NOV 20.

QUOTE: S E C R E T JIDDA 7971

DEPT ALSO PASS FLASH TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

E O 12065: GDS 11/20/85 (PLACKE, JAMES A.) OR-M

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA

SUBJ: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE, MECCA

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED REPORT FROM U.S. CITIZEN EMPLOYEE
OF AMERICAN FIRM THAT GROUP OF IRANIANS THIS MORNING OCCUPIED
GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA (THE HOLIEST PLACE IN ISLAM) WHICH IS
NOW SURROUNDED BY SAUDI SOLDIERS. THERE HAS BEEN HEAVY FIRING
AND SEVERAL SAUDI SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN KILLED. SOURCE RECEIVED
INFORMATION FROM COMPANY OPERATION LOCATED OUTSIDE MECCA.

3. ANOTHER SOURCE, WHO SPOKE WITH A RELATIVE INSIDE MECCA,
ALSO REPORTS DISTURBANCES. MOSQUE IS OCCUPIED BY GROUP OF
300 TO 600 WHO COULD BE IRANIANS OR YEMENIS, AND IS SUR-
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PAGE 02 STATE 301868

ROUNDED BY SAUDI ARMY; GUNFIRE IS BEING EXCHANGED.

4. CONTACTS IN SAUDI MEDIA RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE MUCH INFOR-
MATION OVER PHONE, BUT CONFIRM THERE IS A "SERIOUS DISTURBANCE"

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
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IN MECCA INVOLVING GUNFIRE.

5. COMMENT: TODAY IS FIRST DAY OF MUHARRIM IN SAUDI ARABIA (FIRST DAY OF NEW YEAR, AND NEW CENTURY IN POPULAR EYES). SINCE FIRST TEN DAYS OF THIS MONTH ARE A PERIOD OF GREAT RELIGIOUS FERVOR AMONG SHIA, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE IRANIANS ARE INVOLVED. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS NOT YET CONFIRMED THIS. COMMANDER OF SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD GAVE ORDERS THIS MORNING TO TRIPLE SECURITY GUARD ON EMBASSY (WE BELIEVE AFTER OCCUPATION OF MOSQUE OCCURRED). END COMMENT.

6. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER AS SITUATION DEVELOPS.
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PAGE 01 STATE 302118
ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-00 SS-15 ADS-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 /036 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:RBMERRICK:SLR
APPROVED BY IWG:PCONSTABLE
D: MR. CHRISTOPHER

-----105285 211658Z /75
Z 211645Z NOV 79 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS FLASH

UNCLAS STATE 302118

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: IR, SA, PK

SUBJECT: PRESS STATEMENT
DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT:
THE STATEMENT MADE BY AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI'S OFFICE AND
CARRIED ON TEHRAN RADIO IMPLYING AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT
IN THE OCCUPATION OF THE MOSQUE IN MECCA IS FALSE AND
IRRESPONSIBLE.

ALL NATIONS DEPLORE THIS ACT OF TERRORISM IN MECCA WHICH
THE SAUDI ARABIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS ALREADY
DESCRIBED AS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF "A BAND OF RENEGADES
TO THE ISLAMIC RELIGION." VANCE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 15 JUN 2006 200505106

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PAGE 01 STATE 302251
ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-00 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-12 ADS-00 SIG-03 CIAE-00
 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02
 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SES-01
 SSN-02 SPH-01 /088 R

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APPROVED BY NEA:JWTTWINAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANJUL NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 302251

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS:PEPR, PINT, SA, US

SUBJECT: ARMED INTRUSION AT AL-HARAM MOSQUE AT MECCA

1. THE SAUDI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS RELEASED THE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN
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PAGE 02 STATE 302251

RIYADH COMMENTING ON THE SEIZURE OF THE AL-HARAM MOSQUE
IN MECCA.

2. BEGIN TEXT: A BAND OF RENEGADES TO THE ISLAMIC

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
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RELIGION SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE DAWN PRAYERS ON TUESDAY, THE FIRST OF MUHA-RAM 1400 TO INFILTRATE THE AL-HARAM MOSQUE. THEY HAD WITH THEM WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION.

THEY PRESENTED ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS TO THE CROWDS OF MUSLIMS INSIDE THE AL-HARAM MOSQUE IN THE HOLY CITY OF MECCA TO LEAD THE DAWN PRAYERS CLAIMING THAT HE WAS THE PROMISED MAHDI (MESSIAH).

THEY CALLED ON THE MUSLIMS IN THE AL-HARAM MOSQUE TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIM IN THIS CAPACITY UNDER THE THREAT OF THE ARMS THEY WERE CARRYING. HOWEVER, THE AUTHORITIES HAVE

TAKEN ALL NECESSARY MEASURES AND HAVE BROUGHT THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL IN ACCORDANCE WITH A FATEWA (RELIGIOUS DEGREE) BY THE ULEMA.

MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF THE MUSLIMS WHO ARE INSIDE THE AL-HARAM MOSQUE.

THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WILL, GOD WILLING, ISSUE A SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SITUATION.

END TEXT. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 302251
ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /007 R

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APPROVED BY: NEA/ARP:JRCOUNTRYMAN

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TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS STATE 302251

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 302251 SENT ACTION ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOTH
ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POST JAKARTA ANKARA KUALA LUMPUR BAMAKO FREETOWN
MOGADISCIO KHARTOUM NDJAMENA NIAMEY LAGOS DAKAR AND BANJUL
AND CONAKRY ON 21 NOV
QUOTE: UNCLAS STATE 302251

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS:PEPR, PINT, SA, US

SUBJECT: ARMED INTRUSION AT AL-HARAM MOSQUE AT MECCA

1. THE SAUDI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS RELEASED THE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN
RIYADH COMMENTING ON THE SEIZURE OF THE AL-HARAM MOSQUE
IN MECCA.

2. BEGIN TEXT: A BAND OF RENEGADES TO THE ISLAMIC
RELIGION SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE DAWN PRAYERS ON
TUESDAY, THE FIRST OF MUHA-RAM 1400 TO INFILTRATE THE
AL-HARAM MOSQUE. THEY HAD WITH THEM WEAPONS AND
AMMUNITION.

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THEY PRESENTED ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS TO THE CROWDS OF
MUSLIMS INSIDE THE AL-HARAM MOSQUE IN THE HOLY CITY OF
MECCA TO LEAD THE DAWN PRAYERS CLAIMING THAT HE WAS THE
PROMISED MAHDI (MESSIAH).

THEY CALLED ON THE MUSLIMS IN THE AL-HARAM MOSQUE TO
ACKNOWLEDGE HIM IN THIS CAPACITY UNDER THE THREAT OF THE
ARMS THEY WERE CARRYING. HOWEVER, THE AUTHORITIES HAVE

TAKEN ALL NECESSARY MEASURES AND HAVE BROUGHT THE
SITUATION UNDER CONTROL IN ACCORDANCE WITH A FATEWA
(RELIGIOUS DEGREE) BY THE ULEMA.

MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF THE
MUSLIMS WHO ARE INSIDE THE AL-HARAM MOSQUE.

THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WILL, GOD WILLING, ISSUE A SUB-
SEQUENT STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS
SITUATION.

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END TEXT. VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

NOTE BY OCT: ORIG. DIST.: NEA/ICA-\$,NSC-\$,POLI,READ,SES,SSN,SPH.

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-06 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
SY-05 SYE-00 OPR-02 A-02 /054 W
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O O 211132Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4775
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
/USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE 0911
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
/AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE 4116
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

SECRET SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 5285

E.O. 12065: RDS 1 AND 4, 11/21/89 (DICKMAN, F.M.) OR-M
TAGS: POINS, SOPN, ASEC, SA, KU
SUBJECT: (S) IRANIAN AGITATION OF KUWAITI SHIAS AND MECCA
MOSQUE OCCUPATION

REFS: (A) DHAHRAN 1850, (B) JIDDA 7993 AND PREVIOUS
(C) DOHA 1332, (D) FBIS ,:210707

1. (S) SUMMARY. LIKE DHAHRAN WE HAVE INFORMATION
THAT KUWAITI SHIAS WHO PERFORMED THE HAJ LAST MONTH WERE
SUBJECTED TO A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PRO-KHOMEINI, PRO-
IRANIAN REVOLUTION PROPAGANDA BY IRANIAN HAJJIS, AND WE
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HAVE HEARD QATARI RADIO REPORT THAT THOSE OCCUPYING MOSQUE
CLAIM TO HAVE AMONG THEM THE TWELFTH IMAM OF SHI'ISM,
BUT WE HAVE NO REPEAT NO FIRM REPORTS THAT IRANIANS
ARE INVOLVED IN SEIZURE OF GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 15 JUN 2006 200505106

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KUWAIT PRESS HAS SCANTY REPORTING ON OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE AND SEIZURE OF HOSTAGES THERE; INFORMED OPINION HERE HAS YET TO GEL AND NO OFFICIAL COMMENTARY MADE. ON EPAPER WITH LEFTIST PALESTINIAN AFFILIATIONS CLAIMS DEPT SPOKESMAN PLAYED UP MOSQUE SEIZURE TO DISTRACT ARAB SUMMIT FROM

"PASSING CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE ARAB NATION." RECENTLY, IRANIAN AGITATION OF KUWAITI SHIA HAJJIS HAS LED TO SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN REQUEST FOR SHIA RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS HERE, BUT KUWAIT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR LIMITING PERMITS TO TRADITIONAL APPLICANTS. END SUMMARY.

2. (S) LIKE DHAHRAN (REF A), EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT KUWAITI SHIAS WHO MADE THE HAJJ PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA LAST MONTH WERE SUBJECTED TO A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PROPAGANDA BY IRANIAN HAJJIS WHO HELD LECTURES STRESSING BENEFITS OF THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SOURCES, ELEMENTS AMONG THE KUWAIT SHIA HAJJIS HAVE BEEN PERSUADED BY THESE LECTURES AND OTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH IRANIANS TO BECOME MORE SYMPATHIC TOWARDS IRAN'S REVOLUTION. AS A RESULT, WE ARE TOLD BY SECURITY OFFICIALS HERE, A SUBSTANTIALLY LARGER NUMBER OF SHIITES THAN USUAL ARE ASKING TO HOLD GATHERINGS IN HOMES OR SPECIAL BUILDINGS (HOSSENIA) DURING MUHARREM, THE SHIA MONTH OF MOURNING WHICH ON THE SHIA CALENDAR BEGINS TODAY NOV 21. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TAKING RESTRICTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE REQUESTS.

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3. (U) ALSO WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE SAUDI SECURITY AUTHORITIES ROUGHED UP A NUMBER OF IRANIAN HAJJIS AS A RESULT OF THEIR AGITATION. AT THE BORDER, PRO-KHOMEINI CASSETTES AND KHOMEINI PHOTOS WERE TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM.

4. (U) KUWAIT PRESS NOVEMBER 20-21 CARRIES SCANTY REPORTING ON GRAND MOSQUE SEIZURE. ONE PAPER WITH LEFTIST PALESTINIAN AFFILIATION (AL QABAS) SAID A GROUP OF "HIRELINGS" STORMED A BUILDING IN MECCA BELIEVED TO BE THE HOLY GRAND MOSQUE AND WERE HOLDING HOSTAGES (REF D). PAPER CONTINUES THAT SAUDI SOURCES AT ARAB SUMMIT AT TUNIS CLAIM THAT SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHED HAD ORDERED THE SECURITY FORCES TO "HIT

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THESE HIRELINGS AND LIQUIDATE THEM."

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05285 02 OF 02 211203Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-06 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICA-11
SY-05 SYE-00 OPR-02 A-02 /065 W
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O O 211132Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4776
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 KUWAIT 5285

OMIS PAPER
CITES "DELEGATIONS
ATTENDING THE ARAB SUMMIT IN TUNIS" FOR LUDICROUS
PROPOSITION AMERICAN STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN DELIBERATELY
EXAGGERATING INCIDENT IN ORDER TO DISTRACT ARAB
SUMMIT FROM "PASSING CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS IN THE
INTERESTS OF THE ARAB NATIONS." (COMMENT: AT THIS
MOMENT WE NOT INTENDING TO DIGNIFY AL QABAS ASSERTION
WITH DENIAL HERE) .

5. (LOU) COMMENT: WE DO NOT HAVE ANY INDEPENDENT

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INFORMATION ON IDENTITY, MOTIVES, OR DEMANDS

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OF THOSE WHO HAVE OCCUPIED MOSQUE. INFORMED
KUWAITI OPINION ON MOSQUE SEIZURE HAS YET TO GEL, AND
THERE HAS AS OF 100 (0800 GNT) BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOK
STATEMENT RE MECCA AFFRAY. HOWEVER KUWAIT RADIO NEWS
AT 1300 LOCAL (QPP GMT) AHS SENIOR SAUDI OFFICIAL
SAYING SITUATION IN MECCA IN FULL CONTROL AND "CAN BE
CONSIDERED OVER." AFFRAY IS DESCRIBED IN SOUDI
STATEMENT AS A "RIOT BY FUNDAMENTALISY ELEMENTS."

6. (LOU). FURTHER COMMENT: KUWAIT RADIO HAS NOT
CARRIED STATEMENT BY SAUDI MINISTER OF INTERIOR
PRINCE NAIF (HEARD HERE ON QATARI RADIO BY SENIOR
EMBASSY FSN AT 0500 GMT) THAT THOSE OCCUPYING
GRAND MOSQUE CLAIMED TO HAVE AMONG THEM THE MISSI G
TWELFTH IMAM OF SHIISM (ALMAHDI AL-MUNDAZAR). THERE'S
NO INDICATION IN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF WHAT SORT OF
SHI'A (SAUDI, IRANIAN, YEMENI, ETC.) MAY BE INCOLVED.
GIVEN SAUDI RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOLY PLACES WE EXPECT
GOK WILL FOLLOW SAG LEAD IN PUBLIC COMMENTARY. WITH
ARAB LEADERSHIP IN TUNIS, AUTHORITATIVE GOK COMMENT
MAY COME FROM THERE.

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PAGE 01 STATE 302288
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 EUR-12 ADS-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SY-05 SYE-00
MCT-02 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
/068 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PWG:HSCHAFER:MAR
APPROVED BY NEA/PWG:RPECK
S/S-O:RSTEVENS

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O 212109Z NOV 79 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 302288

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PK, US

SUBJECT: ATTACK OF U.S. FACILITIES IN PAKISTAN

ACCORDING TO A SENIOR PAK ACADEMIC SOURCE, STUDENTS WHO
INITIATED ATTACK ON U.S. FACILITIES IN ISLAMABAD WERE
PROMPTED BY 0600 (PAK TIME) BBC BROADCAST IN WHICH REPORT
OF SEIZURE OF MECCA MOSQUE BY ISLAMIC RENEGADES AND REPORT
OF POSSIBLE REINFORCEMENT OF U.S. MILITARY UNITS IN INDIAN
OCEAN AREA WERE JUXTAPOSED. YOU MIGHT WANT TO
CRANK THIS INTO YOUR INQUIRIES REPORTED IN EARLIER MESSAGE
THIS SUBJECT. VANCE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 15 JUN 2006 200505106 DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08039 211408Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-06
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 SY-05
SYE-00 MCT-02 SES-01 SSN-02 L-03 USSS-00 OC-06
CCO-00 OCS-06 CA-01 A-02 OPR-02 OMB-01 ACDA-12
ANAE-00 /100 W

-----104216 211432Z /65

O 211310Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8029
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
USMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHYA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 8039

DEPT ALSO PASS NIACT IMMEDIATE TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

EO 12065: GDS 11/21/79 (PLACKE, JAMES A) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AFSP, SA
SUBJ: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. SUMMARY: OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA APPEARS TO
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 08039 211408Z

BE CONTINUING AS OF 1500 LOCAL TIME (1200Z), BUT THERE ARE SIGNS
THAT SAUDI AUTHORITIES ARE PREPARING TO USE FORCE.
SECURITY AROUND JIDDA HAS BEEN BEEFED UP AND CITY SEEMS
PARTICULARLY QUIET. END SUMMARY.

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3. EARLY MORNING NOV 21 SAUDI INTERIOR MINISTRY ISSUED STATEMENT ON SEIZURE WHICH WAS BROADCAST ON RADIO AND PUBLISHED IN OKAZ (ARABIC). EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT: A GROUP OF RENEGADES AGAINST ISLAM CARRYING ARMS AND AMMUNITION INFILTRATED INTO THE HOLY MOSQUE IN MECCA AT DAWN PRAYER YESTERDAY. THEY PRESENTED ONE OF THEIR NUMBER TO THE WORSHIPERS CLAIMING HE IS THE EXPECTED MAHDI AND CALLED ON THEM, AT GUNPOINT, TO RECOGNIZE HIM AS SUCH. THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR THEIR OPINION ABOUT MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO PROTECT MUSLIMS IN THE MOSQUE. ANOTHER STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED LATER EXPLAINING WHAT NEW DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR IN THIS INCIDENT.

END TEXT.

4. SOURCES IN OPERATIONS SECTION AT JIDDA AIRPORT REPORTED THIS MORNING (NOV 21) THAT ALL COMMERCIAL FIGHTS WERE CONTINUING AS SCHEDULED, BUT SECURITY HAS BEEN BEEFED UP. HOWEVER, MOST CORPORATE AIRCRAFT IN JIDDA ARE EFFECTIVELY GROUNDED BY CLOSURE OF SERVICE AREA.

5. HOSPITALS IN AREA ARE STILL UNDER MEDICAL ALERT. MILITARY HOSPITAL IN JIDDA HAS BEEN TOLD BY ITS CHIEF SURGEON TO EXPECT NUMEROUS CASUALTIES THIS AFTERNOON OR EARLY THIS EVENING. ALL NON-CRITICAL PATIENTS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM HOSPITAL. SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDER CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH EFFORT TO RETAKE MOSQUE HAS

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INFORMED EMBASSY THAT INCIDENT WILL BE OVER BY SUNSET.

6. ON MORNING OF NOV 21, POLOFF AND AIR ATTACHE AGAIN DEBRIEFED AMERICAN PILOTS FLYING RECONNAISSANCE SORTIES FOR SAG OVER GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA. (SEE JIDDA 7993). PILOTS STATED THAT THEY MADE THREE EVENING SORTIES OVER MOSQUE EVENING OF NOV 20 AND ONE SORTIE MORNING OF NOV 21. THEY NOTED THAT THEIR HELICOPTER DREW HEAVY FIRE (INCLUDING TRACERS) FROM GUN POSITIONS ESTABLISHED IN TWIN MINARETS OF MOSQUE AND SAID IT APPEARED THE OCCUPIERS ALSO POSSESSED AT LEAST ONE .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUN. PILOTS SAID THE OCCUPIERS OF THE MOSQUE APPEARED VERY WELL ORGANIZED AND CONSTANTLY MOVED THEIR GUN POSITIONS -- EVEN IN THE MINARETS -- IN ORDER TO HINDER

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THE AIMING OF RETURN FIRE.

7. DURING EVENING OF NOV 20 MOSQUE WAS COMPLETELY DARKENED, SOMETHING WHICH PILOTS' SAUDI CONTACTS STATED HAD NEVER BEFORE HAPPENED. SNIPERS IN THE MINARETS WERE AGAIN PRESENT IN THE MINARETS AND OTHER POSITIONS AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE MOSQUE DURING THEIR SORTIE OVER BUILDING AT 0700 LOCAL NOV 21. PILOTS STATED THAT THREE 8-10 STORY BUILDINGS ACROSS FROM MOSQUE WERE ON FIRE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW FIRES STARTED. PILOTS ALSO STATED THAT FOR FIRST TIME SINCE MOSQUE SEIZED, TWO SAUDI F-5S MADE TOTAL OF SIX LOW PASSES OVER MOSQUE. NO SHOTS FIRED, ALTHOUGH PLANES ARMED WITH 20 MM CANNON.

8. REFERRING TO INFO GIVEN THEM BY SAUDI OFFICERS IN MECCA, PILOTS STATED THAT THESE OFFICERS CONFIRMED THE KILLING OF THE IMAM OF MOSQUE SHORTLY AFTER ITS SEIZURE FOLLOWING EARLY MORNING PRAYERS NOV 20. IN A SEPARATE INCIDENT, OFFICERS TOLD PILOTS THAT A SAUDI BRIGADIER GENERAL, A COLONEL, A MAJOR AND ANOTHER
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OFFICER WERE KILLED AT APPROX NOON NOV 20. ONE OF THE GATES OF MOSQUE WAS SUDDENLY AND BRIEFLY FLUNG OPEN AND THE OFFICERS, WHO WERE STANDING IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE, WERE KILLED IN A HAIL OF BULLETS. STREETS AROUND MOSQUE WERE IMMEDIATELY CLEARED. BODIES OF THE DEAD OFFICERS HAVE APPARENTLY NOT BEEN RECOVERED.

9. IN CONFIRMATION OF OTHER REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED, OFFICERS ALSO TOLD PILOTS THAT WEAPONS HAD BEEN SMUGGLED INTO THE MOSQUE EVENING OF OV 19 ABOARD TWO TRUCKS DISGUISED AS SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED BY A WORK CREW UNDERTAKING RENOVATIONS INSIDE.

10. SECURITY AT ALL SAG MINISTRIES HAS BEEN BEEFED UP. THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF DISTURBANCE IN JIDDA OR RIYADH. A SOURCE WITH CONTACTS HIGH IN ROYAL FAMILY HAS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT THERE WAS INCIDENT IN MEDINA SIMULTANEOUS WITH MOSQUE SEIZURE IN MECCA, BUT IT WAS QUICKLY SUPPRESSED AND SITUATION THERE IS NOW NORMAL. OTHER SOURCES ALSO REPORT THAT MEDINA IS CALM. WEST

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08077 221721Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 PA-01 NSCE-00
DODE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /040 W
-----114192 221754Z /44 S

O 221630Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8046
AMEMBASSY TUNIS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO USLO RIAYDH IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 8077

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/22/ 85 (PLAKCE JAMES A) ORM
TAGS: ASEC PINS SA
SUBJ (U) SAG DISCLAIMS ANY US INVOLVEMENT WTH SEIZURE OF MECCA
MOSQUE

REF: JIDDA 8072 (NOTAL)

1. (C) AS CONSEQUENCY OF APPEAL MADE BY AMBASSADOR TO
PETROLEUM MINISTER YAMANI FOR SPECIFIC SAG DISCLAIMER OF ANY US
INVOLVEMENT IN SEIZURE OF GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA (REFTEL, SAUDI
PRESS AGENCY (SPA) CARRIED REPORT ABOUT 1400 LOCAL NOV 22,
-- PROMPTLY REPEATED ON SAUDI RADIO--REFUTING ALLEGATIONS OF
AMERICAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR SEIZURE. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF SPA
REPORT FOLLOWS.

2. (U) SPA: THE SAUDI MINISTER OF INTERIOR, PRINCE NAYIF
BIN ABD AL-AZIZ SAID TODAY, -"NEITHER THE UNITED STATES, IRAN,
NOR ANY OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE ATTACK ON
THE HOLY KABBA. NEWS REPORTS ALLEGING US INVOLVEMENT IN THE
INCIDENT WERE ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE AND BASELESS. THERE ARE NO SUCH
INDICATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT."
"THE MINISTER ALSO SAID, "NEWS AGENCY REPORTS CLAIMING THAT THE
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ASSAILANTS WERE IRANIAN WERE ALSO ABSOLUTELY FALSE.
THE ATTACKERS WERE NEITHER PRO-IRANIAN NOR FROM ANY OTHER NATION-
ALITY. NOR WERE THEY A POLITICALLY MOTIVATED GROUP.
IT IS ALL A MATTER OF A CRIMINAL DEVIATION FROM THE CORRECT

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PATH OF ISLAM FAR FROM ANY POLITICS."

3(C) DUE TO THEIR PRESENCE IN MECCA AND THEIR PRE-
OCCUPATION WITH SEIZURE, AMBASSADOR HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO
CONVEY TO SENIOR SAUDI PRINCES EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHETIC
US CONCERN AS AUTHORIZED NOV 21 BY DEPARTMENT. ESPECIALLY IN VIEW
OF HIGH DEGREE OF SAG RESPONSIVENESS TO URGENT US INTEREST IN
REFUTING KHOMEINI ALLEGATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT IN MECCA EVENTS
--EVEN WHEN SAG HAS NOT YET RECOVERED COMPLETE CONTROL OF
GRAND MOSQUE--WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT USG ISSUE STATEMENT
FROM WHITE HOUSE OR IN NAME OF SECRETARY, DEPLORING IN STRONGEST
STRONGEST TERMS THIS DESECRATION BY FANATICS OF THE HOLIEST
SHRINE OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S PRINCIPLE RELIGIONS AND EXPRESSING
US NATIONAL SYMPATHY WITH THE ANGUISH OF ALL MUSLIMS, AND
ESPECIALLY THE PEOPLE OF SAUDI ARABIA, AS A RESULT OF THIS
REPREHENSIBLE ACT.

4. (C) SUCH A STATEMENT, IT SEEMS TO US, IS ALONE WARRANTED BY
THE GRAVITY OF THIS EVENT, QUITE APART FROM ITS APPROPRIATENESS
IN LIGHT OF US MORAL LEADERSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP
WITH SAUDI ARABIA. WEST

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATED WITH S/S-O MISS ANDERSON.

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08080 221857Z
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
-----114631 221903Z /66

O 221830Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
OT RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8048
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 8080

EXDIS DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/2285 (WEST JOHN C) OR M
TAGS: ASEC PINS SA
SUBJ: SEIZURE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE AT MECCA:
A PRELIMINARY POLITICAL ASSESSMENT

1. (S ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. THE SEIZURE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE AT MECCA BY A
DISSIDENT BAND OF SAUDI RELIGIOUS FANATICS IS SIGNIFICANT.
THE FULL MEANING AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE INCIDENT
CANNOT BE ASSESSED AT THIS TIME; HOWEVER, THERE IS NO
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DOUBT THAT THE AFFAIR, VIEWED IN WHATEVER LIGHT FROM
WHATEVER PERSPECTIVE, HAS SERIOUS OVERTONES.

2. THE SEIZURE IS THE FIRST SUBSTANTIAL DISTURBANCE THAT

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THE SAUD RULING FAMILY HAS HAD TO DEAL WITH IN MORE THAN A DECADE. THESE INDISPUTABLE FACTS ARE WORTHY OF NOTE:

--THE GROUPS WAS OF NOT INCONSEQUENTIAL SIZE--PROBABLY 300 IN NUMBER;

--THEY WERE WELL ARMED AND REASONABLY WELL DISCIPLINED;

--THE OPERATION WAS WELL PLANED AND EXECUTED.

IF REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES AT MEDINA ARE CORRECT, THE MECCA SEIZURE WAS PART OF AN OVERALL PLAN FOR SEIZURE OF THE TWO HOLY SHRINES OF WHICH SAG IS THE PROTECTOR;

-- THE SAG SECURITY FORCES HAVE MOBILIZED BUT HAVE BEEN SURPRISINGLY SLOW IN APPLYING THE FORCE NEEDED TO SECURE THE MOSQUE. WE ARE STILL UNCLEAR ABOUT WHAT POSSIBLE MIXTURE OF RESTRAINT, INEPTITUDE OR RESISTANCE EXPLAINS THIS PERFORMANCE;
-- THE GROUP IS RELIGIOUS, NOT POLITICAL, IN THE SENSE THAT THE GROUPS'S CLAIMS WERE RELIGIOUS IN NATURE.

3. IN SOME WAYS THE FACT THAT THE INCIDENT IS SPARKED BY A RELIGIOUS GROUP IS DISTURBING. THE BASIC POWER AND MASS APPEAL OF A FANATIC MUSLIM RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT HAS BEEN CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED IN IRAN. THE BOTTOM LINE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE MECCA AFFAIR IS THE FIRST MANIFESTATION OF RELIGIOUS FERMENT.

4. SINCE THE ANSWER CANNOT BE A CATEGORICAL "NO," WE NEED TO ASSESS AND ANALYZE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE NEXT FEW DAYS, WEEKS AND MONTHS WITH EXTREME CARE. WEST

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 SIG-03 MMO-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 SY-05 SYE-00 A-02
EB-08 DOE-17 TRSE-00 ANAE-00 /087 R

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APPROVED BY NEA/IWG:CCLEMENT
S/S-O :WSBUTCHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII IMMEDIATE 0000
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB GER IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON IMMEDIATE
XMT AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

S E C R E T STATE 302553

E.O. 12065: (GDS-11/21/79, CLEMENT, CARL)

TAGS: PINR, IR, PK

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN IRAN AS OF 17:30 EST, NOVEMBER
21, 1979

1. (SECRET ENTIRE TEXT)
2. THE 13 RELEASED HOSTAGES WILL ARRIVE AT ANDREWS
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AFB AT 10:00 EST NOVEMBER 22, IN TIME TO CELEBRATE
THANKSGIVING WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION FOR THE

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REMAINING HOSTAGES IN TEHRAN. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF EARLIER RUMORS THAT THOSE HOSTAGES HAD BEEN MOVED FROM THE EMBASSY COMPOUND TO A PRISON.

4. TEHRAN RADIO EARLIER TODAY CARRIED MESSAGES FROM KHOMEINI AND OTHER LEADING AYATOLLAHS ON THE OCCASION OF THE BEGINNING OF THE HOLY MONTH OF MOHARRAM, EMPHASIZING THE MOHARRAM TRADITION OF MARTYRDOM AND CALLING UPON IRANIANS TO SACRIFICE THEMSELVES FOR THEIR NATION AND FAITH AGAINST A STRONGER OPPRESSOR.

5. THERE HAVE BEEN MASSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS IN TEHRAN AND OTHER IRANIAN CITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE STUDENTS HOLDING THE HOSTAGES. THE DEMONSTRATION HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS THE BIGGEST EVER ANTRICAN DEMONSTRATION IN TEHRAN. THIS RELIGIOUS AND REVOLUTIONARY FERVOR CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AND INCREASE THROUGH NOVEMBER 31 AND DECEMBER 1, WHICH ARE THE TWO HIGH HOLY DAYS OF THE MONTH OF MOHARRAM. MARTYRDOM WILL BE THE CENTRAL THEME THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD.

6. KHOMEINI'S OFFICE IN QOM TODAY RELEASED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT IT IS NOT FAR-FETCHED TO ASSUME THAT THE ATTACK ON THE MAIN MOSQUE IN MECCA HAS BEEN PERPETRATED BY THE "CRIMINAL AMERICAN IMPERIALISM SO THAT IT CAN INFILTRATE THE SOLID RANKS OF MUSLIMS BY SUCH INTRIGUES." THE STATE DEPARTMENT TODAY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT: "THE STATEMENT MADE BY AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI'S OFFICE AND CARRIED ON TEHRAN RADIO IMPLYING AMERICAN
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INVOLVEMENT IN THE OCCUPATION OF THE MOSQUE IN MECCA IS FALSE AND IRRESPONSIBLE. ALL NATIONS DEPLORE THIS ACT OF TERRORISM IN MECCA WHICH THE SAUDI ARABIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS ALREADY DESCRIBED AS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A 'BAND OF RENEGADES TO THE ISLAMIC RELIGION.'

7. IN THEIR STATEMENT NO. 45, THE STUDENTS HOLDING THE HOSTAGES SAID: "IF IT IS FELT THAT THE U.S. THREATS ARE BECOMING A REALITY, ALL THE HOSTAGES WILL BE KILLED."

8. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER QOTBZADEH DURING AN INTERVIEW IN TEHRAN DISCOUNTED THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT U.S. RIGHTS UNDER THE UN CHARTER AS PROBABLY NOTHING MORE THAN A POLITICAL BLUFF WHICH SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY IRAN. QOTBZADEH ADDED THAT IF IT

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WAS MEANT SERIOUSLY AND THE U.S. ACTUALLY WAS PLANNING MILITARY INTERFERENCE, IRANIANS WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO RESIST TO THE END. QOTBZADEH REFERRED TO THE PROVERB WHICH SAYS THAT "A BARKING DOG NEVER BITES."

9. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ON NOVEMBER 19 SENT A MESSAGE TO THE IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF THE REMAINING HOSTAGES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF TRIALS ON CHARGES OF ESPI. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL URGED THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS RELEASED A STATEMENT EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE REMAINING HOSTAGES WILL SOON BE RELEASED. IT ADDED THAT THE THREAT TO PUT THESE PERSONS ON TRIAL FOR ALLEGED ESPIONAGE IS A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE SUGGESTION THAT ALL OR VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE DIPLOMATIC STAFF WERE ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE IS BEYOND CREDENCE, BUT EVEN IF THERE WERE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE ALLEGATIONS, THERE IS NO RIGHT TO BRING THE PERSONS CONCERNED TO TRIAL. THE ONLY REMEDY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW IS TO EXPEL THEM FROM THE TERRITORY.

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10. IRAN HAS DEFAULTED ON SEVERAL SYNDICATED LOANS WITHIN THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. MOST OF THE ACTIONS REPORTEDLY RESULT FROM LAST WEEK'S BLOCKING ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY. MANY U.S. BANKS HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO USE IRANIAN DEPOSITS AS AN OFFSET AGAINST OTHER LIABILITIES OR DEFAULTS.

11. WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF IRANIAN ACTIONS TO BLOCK THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ. NONE HAVE BEEN VERIFIED. THE BRITISH SHIPPING COUNCIL HAS REPORTED THAT THE IRANIANS MAY HAVE BEEFED UP THEIR MILITARY PRESENCE ON SOME SMALL ISLANDS NEAR THE STRAITS. THIS REPORT HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED. CLARKSON SHIPPING IN LONDON HAS ADVISED SEVERAL OIL COMPANIES THAT IRANIAN NAVAL VESSELS ARE CONTACTING TANKERS BY RADIO TO INQUIRE ABOUT THEIR DESTINATION AND POINT OF ORIGIN.

12. OIL INDUSTRY SOURCES CONFIRM REPORTS OF INCREASED JAPANESE PURCHASES OF CRUDE OIL FROM IRAN. ONE MAJOR U.S. COMPANY WHICH WAS TAKING SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF CRUDE FROM IRAN REPORTS THAT THE NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL

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COMPANY HAS STILL NOT FORMALLY CANCELLED THE COMPANY'S
CRUDE PURCHASE CONTRACT.

13. OIL PRODUCTION FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12-18
AVERAGED 2.8 MILLION B/D, A DROP OF SOME 700,000 BARRELS
FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY AVERAGE.14. AS OF 1500 EST, WE ARE AWAITING MOMENTARY WORD
SAUDI SECURITY FORCES HAVE SECURED THE RELEASE OF
MUSLIM HOSTAGES IN THE AL-HARAM MOSQUE IN MECCA AND
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AKEN INTO CUSTODY THE ARMED INTRUDERS WHO TOOK
OVER THE MOSQUE. WE STILL DO NOT HAVE DEFINITE INFORMA-
TION CONCERNING THE NATIONALITY OR THE MOTIVATION OF THE
ARMED ATTACKERS.

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08079 221828Z
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
-----114483 221830Z /40

O 221745Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8047
DIW WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 8079 DECAPTIONED

EXDIS-MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

DEPT ALSO PASS NIACT IMMEDIATE TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/22/85 (PLACKE, JAMES A.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA
SUBJECT: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE, MECCA

REF: JIDDA 8073 DTG 221111 NOV 79 (NOTAL)

1. (S - NEITIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY. EMBASSY OFFICERS DEBRIEFED U.S. PILOTS FLYING
SAUDI CIVIL DEFENSE HELICOPTERS OVER MECCA NOV 21-22.
THEIR OBSERVATIONS APPEAR IN CONSIDERABLE CONTRADICTION
WITH OTHER REPORTS EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM OFFICIAL
SAUDI AND OTHER SOURCES WHICH INDICATE THAT SAUDIS

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HAVE RETAKEN AT LEAST PORTION OF FIRST FLOOR OF
MOSQUE WITH ASSISTANCE FROM ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS.
END SUMMARY.

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3. POLOFF AND AIR ATTACHE DEBRIEFED U.S . CIVILIAN PILOTS (PLS PROTECT) CONTRACTED TO FLY SAUDI CIVIL DEFENSE HELICOPTERS FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN TO JIDDA AT 1600 HOURS LOCAL NOV 22. THEIR OBSERVATIONS APPEAR IN CONSIDERABLE CONTRADICTION WITH OTHER REPORTSD EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED (SEE REFTTEL) WHICH INDICATED THAT SAUDIS HAVE RETAKEN AT LEAST PORTION OF FIRST FLOOR OF MOSQUE WITH ASSISTANCE FROM ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS. WHILE WE CANNOT CONFIRM OR DENY VALIDITY OF THEIR OBSERVATIONS, THEY ARE BEING REPORTED FOR WHAT THEY ARE, A VALUABLE FIRST-HAND AERIAL VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN MECCA.

4. IN LATER VISITS TO MECCA, PILOTS DEPARTED JIDDA FOR SMALL MUNA AIRFILED 3-5 MILIES FOR MECCA AN 1400 HOURS NOV 21. AIRFIELD IS REPORTED TO BE UNDER VERY HEAVY GUARD. AT 1900 HOURS PILOTS FLEW OVER GRAND MOSQUE AT ALITITUDE OF ABOUT 3500 FT. AS WAS CASE PREVIOUS NIGHT, ALL LIGHTS ON THE USUALLY BRILLIANTLY LIT MOSQUE WERE COMPLETELY DOUSED. AT 2000 HOURS, WHAT APPEARED TO BE THE LIGHTSUNDER THE NE PORTICO SUDDENLY CAME ON AND REMAINED LIT THROUGHTOUT THE NIGHT. AT 2015 HRS, HELICOPTER WAS SHOT AT BY A TRACER ROUND FROM THE MOSQUE. ROUND MISSED ITS TARGET BUT CONTINUED INA FLAT TRAJECTORY TO ALTITUDE OF 7-8000 FT. WHERE IT BURNED OUT. ROUND APPEARED TO BE FROM HEAVY CALIBER WEAPON. AT 2300 HOURS, PILOTS AGAIN PASSED OVE MOSQUE. NE PORTICO STILL LIT, AND THERE WAS A SMALL BONFIRE IN THE

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CENTROL COURTYARD. PILOTS SURMISED THIS WAS FOR COOKING PURPOSES.

5. AT 0906 HRS NOV. 22, TWO F-5'S MADE LOW LEVEL PASSES OVER THE GRAND MOSUQE FOR A FIFTEEN MINUTE PERIOD AS THEY HAD DONE PREVIOUS DAY. IN CONTRAST TO SIMILAR F-5. PASSES NOV. 20, AIRCRAFT FLEW VERY FLAT FLIGHT PATTERN AS IF IN RECOGNITION OF FACTD OCCUPIERS OF MOSQUE IN POSSESSION OF SOME HEAVY WEAPONS. PILOTS DID NOT RETURN TO GRAND MOSQUE AREA UNTIL 1530 JRS. NOV 22. DURING THS FINAL PASS-OVER, PILOTS STATED THEY COULD PICK UP NO ACTIVITY WHATSOEVER EITHER IN THE MOSQUE OR IN THE SURROUNDING AREA WHICH CONTINUES TO BE CORDONED OFF FOR A 3 TO 5 BLOCK AREA. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS,

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PILOTS STATED THEY SAW NO EVIDENCE OF APC'S OR ANY OTHER ARMoured VEHICLES IN VICINITY OF MOSQUE. IN PARTICULAR, THEY STATED THEY NOTED NO TRACKS ON THE DIRT-COVERED CENTRAL COURTYARD WHICH SURROUNDS THE HOLY KA'ABA.

6. HELICOPTER RETURNED TO JIDDA AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 LOCAL ACRRYING 15 WOUNDED SAUDI SOLDIERS. SOLDIERS WERE DISEMBARKED AT JIDDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WHERE RSAF C-130'S CONVEYED THEM TO RIYADH. (FYI: NEW MILITARY HOSPITAL IN RIYADH HAS BEEN EVACUATED AS HAS MILITARY HOSPITAL IN JIDDA. END FYI.) PILOTS SAID ALL THE INJURED APPEAREDSTO HAVE BEEN WOUNDED BY SMALL CALIBER WEAPONS. INJURIES WERE NOT SERIOUS. NO FRAGMENTATION WOUNDS IN EVIDENCE. ALL OF THE SOLDIERS APPEARED TO BE FROM A SPECIAL FORCES UNIT FROM TABUK. WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO HOW THEY WERE WOUNDED, OFFICER AMONG THEM INDICATED THAT AT 1100 HRS LOCAL, THEY HAD PARTICIPATED IN AN ASSAULT IN THE MOSQUE BY 2000 SAUDI SLODIERS. SAUDI

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OFFICER IMPLIED THAT SAUDI TROOPS NOW OCCUPYING AT LEAST PART OF GROUND FOLLR, PILOTS STATED, HOWEVER, THEY THEY THOUGHT THIS ASSERTION WAS IMPLAUSIBLE, AND SAID THAT THEY COULD NOT SUBSTANTIATE ANY CLAIM FROM THEIR OBSERVATIONS OF THE GRAND MOSQUE AND SURROUNDING AREA. PILOTS ADDED THAT THEY NOTICED NO DAMAGE TO EITHER OF THE TWIN MINARETS DESPITE REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED THAT SAUDIS HAVE DIRECTED GRENADE OR LIGHT SHELL FIRE AT THE MINARETS TO DISLODGE SNIPERS.

7. PILOTS SAID THEY ASKED SAUDI OFFICER IF THERE WAS ANY EVIDENCE OF IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE MOSQUE TAKOVER. OFFICER REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT ONLY SAUDIS WERE INVOLVED. ASKED HOW 2000 MEN COULD ASSAULT THE MOSQUE WITH SO LITTLE OUTWARD EVIDENCE, OFFICER REPORTEDLY REPLIED THATSHIS MEN HAD ENTERED THE MOSQUE THROUGH THE EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF TUNNELS WHICH APPARENTLY EXISTS UNDERNEATH IT.

8. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR THE INCON-SISTENCY BETWEEN THESE OBSERVATIONS AND THE VARIOUS REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED REGARDING THE ALLEGED SLOW

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BUT METHODICAL RECAPTURE OF THE MOSQUE FROM THE
ISLAMIC DISSIDENTS. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE NO REASON
TO DISMISS THE FOREGOING REPORT, WHICH HAS BEEN
RELATED TO US BY PILOTS WELL-SEASONED IN COMBAT
(ALL ARE RETIRED U.S. MILITARY). OBVIOUSLY THERE
HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIAL EXCHANGES OF FIRE, BUT AS ONE
OF THE PILOTS COMMENTED, THE WOUNDED MAY BE CASUALTIES
OF A SAUDI EFFORT TO INFILTRATE RATHER THAN ASSAULT
THIS HOLIEST OF MUSLIM SHRINES.

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08073 221158Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SY-05 SYE-00 ICAE-00 PM-06 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
INRE-00 EB-08 MCT-02 SES-01 SSN-02 SPH-01 L-03
USSS-00 OC-06 CCO-00 OCS-06 CA-01 A-02 OPR-02
OMB-01 ACDA-12 ANAE-00 /097 W
-----112353 221205Z /13

O 221111Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8045
DIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE 4396
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 8073

DEPT PLS PASS NIACT IMMEDIATE TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

E.P 12065; GDS 11/22/85 (PLACKE JAMES A) OR-M
TAGS: PINS ASEC SA
SUBJ : (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE MECCA
SITUATION AS OF 0800 GMT NOV 22

REF: (A) JIDDA 8039 (B) JIDDA 8047

1. (S -ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. USMTM RIYADH PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH FOLLOWING:
OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE WHICH BEGAN AT 0530 NOV 20 CONTINUES.
EVENING OF NOV 21 SAUDI FORCES GAINED ENTRY TO THE FIRST FLOOR BY
MEANS OF THEIR M-113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, WHICH PROVIDED
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ADEQUATE COVER AGAINST THE OCCUPIERS' FIRE.
HOWEVER, OCCUPIERS RETREATED TO UPPER STORIES OF MOSQUE.
ARCHITECTURE OF SECOND FLOOR IS SUCH THAT OCCUPIERS HAVE PLENTY
OF COVER BEHIND SMALL PORTALS, ETCMN MAKING IT EASY FOR THEM

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DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUN 2006 200505106

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TO FIRE OUT AND DIFFICULT FOR SAUDI TO HIT THEM. MOREOVER, OPEN COURTYARD OF GRAND MOSQUE MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR SAUDIS TO USE TEAR GAS.

3. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE BELIEVES THAT NUMBER OF HOSTAGES IS NOW DOWN TO ABOUT 30. ONE HOSTAGE RECOVERED BY SAUDIS REPORTED THERE IS NO FOOD AND LITTLE WATER ON SECOND FLOOR. HOSPITALS IN MECCA ARE FULL OF CASUALTIES, BUT AS OF 0830 GMT, NO WOUNDED HAD BEEN BROUGHT DOWN TO JIDDA MILITARY HOSPITAL.

4. MODA BELIEVES OCCUPIERS INCLUDE SAUDIS, YEMENIS, EGYPTIANS AND NATIONALS OF "THE GULF STATES." MIN INFO YAMANI HAS DECLARED MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN CAPTURED HOWEVER, MODA SEEMS TO CONTRADICT THIS IN THEIR ANALYSIS OF PSYCHOLOGY OF DISSIDENTS. MODA :MIN ON DEF) SAYS DISSIDENTS ARE FIGHTING TO THE DEATH, AND MANY HAVE BEEN KILLED.

5. TWO SAUDIS WELL INFORMED ON RELIGIOUS MATTERS TELL US THAT WHEN CAUST, THE MOSQUE INVADERS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE EXECUTED UNTIL THE MONTH OF MUHARRAM IS OVER, EVEN IF THE TRIAL IS COMPLETED IN MUHARRAM. THERE ARE THREE HOLY MONTHS IN WHICH EXECUTIONS ARE NOT CARRIED OUT: DHU AL-QIDAH, DHU AL-HIJJ, AND MUHARRAM. THIS PROHIBITION STEMS FROM TRIBAL TRADITION OF EARLY TIMES, THERE WAS TRUCE DURING THOSE MONTHS TO ALLOW MOSLIMS TO TRAVEL IN SAFETY TO MECCA DURING THE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE. ALL KILLING WAS FORBIDDEN DURING THIS PERIOD. PENALTIES IMPOSED FOR CRIMES WERE DOUBLED, BUT EXECUTIONS WERE POSTPONED. MUHARRAM WILL BE OVER ABOUT DECEMBER 20. HOWEVER, A SAUDI WITH LEGAL TRAINING TELLS US THAT KILLING IS

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PERMITTED DURING THE THREE HOLY MONTHS IF IT IS THE RESULT OF INCITEMENT. THUS, IN HIS VIEW, THE MOSQUE INTRUDERS COULD BE EXECUTED. WEST

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 07326 220203Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CCO-00 SY-05 SYE-00 A-02 OPR-02
PER-01 MCT-02 SS-15 SSO-00 OC-06 MMO-01 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /056 W
-----108873 220209Z /13

Z 220154Z NOV 79 ZFF-4
FM AMENBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 3520

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 07326

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/22/85 (ZWEIFEL, DAVID E.)
TAGS: PEPR ASEC PINS JO
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION: JORDAN

REF: STATE 302172

1. ENTIRE TEXT TEXT CONFIDENTIAL.
2. REFTEL RECEIVED AT 220015Z.
3. OUR PRESENT, BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT IRAN/PAKISTAN EVENTS DO NOT THREATEN SIGNIFICANT SECURITY SPILLOVER IN JORDAN. AS CROWN PRINCE (AND REGENT) HASSAN POINTED OUT TO AMBASSADOR AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 21, THERE ARE PRACTICALLY NO SHIA ELEMENTS IN JORDAN; SUNNIS HERE SEE MOST RECENT VIOLENCE (INCLUDING OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE) AS INIMICAL CHALLENGE TO SUNNI INTERESTS.
4. GOJ ACTED IN TIMELY FACHION TO DOUBLE SECURITY GUARD AT EMBASSY AFTER OUR REQUEST NOVEMBER 21. WE ARE CONFIDENT JORDANIANS WOULD STRENGTHEN THIS SECURITY FURTHER IF WE DEEM NECESSARY. GOJ KEEPING CLOSE TABS ON DEVELOPMENTS (E.G. REQUEST LATE LAST NIGHT FROM CINC. BIN SHAKER FOR INFORMATION ON M MOSQUE SITUATION); BINSHAKER IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH

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AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT JAF WOULD HAVE RESPONDED TO SAG APPEAL FOR HELP HAD THIS BEEN NECESSARY.

5. DESPITE ABOVE POSITIVE ASSESSMENT, WE ARE

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AWARE OF POSSIBLE "RIPPLE" EFFECT OF IRAN/PAKISTAN EVENTS. WE CONCLUDE THAT MORE LIKELY TRIGGER WOULD BE SOMETHING RELATED TO PALESTINIAN ISSUE, AND HENCE WE HAVE RAISED QUESTION WITH GOJ OF POSSIBLE REACTION WHEN/IF BASSAM SHAKA EXPELLED. THUS FAR, JORDANIANS DO NOT RPT NOT ANTICIPATE SECURITY PROBLEMS IMMEDIATELY SURROU SUCH EVENT, BUT WE WILL KEEP MATTER UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW.

6. DUE TO THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, NEXT EMBASSY WORKDAY WILL BE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25. HOPEFULLY TENSIONS WILL ABATE SOMEWHAT; IN MEANTIME, WE AGAIN ARE REVIEWING OUR EMERGENCY PROCEDURES ON CONTINGENCY BASIS.

7. DEPARTMENT REPEAT IF/AS DESIRED.VELIOTES

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 23937 231547Z
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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O 231546Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1298
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH

S E C R E T CAIRO 23937
DECAPTIONED
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E.O. 12065: RDS-1 11/23/99 (ATHERTON, ALFRED L., JR.), OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA, EG, US
SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK ON SEIZURE
- OF THE GRAND MOSQUE AT MECCA

REF: JIDDA 8041

1. SECRET-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DURING DISCUSSION WITH VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK FRIDAY
MORNING, NOVEMBER 23, HE ASKED WHAT OUR LATEST INFORMATION
WAS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN MECCA. WITHOUT REVEALING THE
SOURCE, I DREW ON THE SUMMARY PARAGRAPH OF REPTTEL TO
GIVE MUBARAK WHAT WE PRESENTLY KNEW ABOUT THE GROUP THAT
HAD SEIZED THE MOSQUE. MUBARAK SAID HE HAD INFORMATION
THAT THERE HAD BEEN TROUBLE SIMULTANEOUSLY IN FIVE
LOCATIONS IN SAUDI ARABIA (HE MENTIONED ONLY MECCA,
MEDINA AND RIYADH BY NAME). MUBARAK ADDED THAT THREE
MONTHS OR SO AGO HE HAD PASSED TO PRINCE TURKI INFORMATION
RECEIVED BY THE GOE THAT THE SYRIANS WERE SENDING ARMS
INTO SAUDI ARABIA. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THERE WAS

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ANY LINK BETWEEN THE RELIGIOUS GROUP WHICH HAD SEIZED
THE MECCA MOSQUE AND THAT EARLIER REPORT, BUT EXPRESSED
CONCERN THAT WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN MECCA AND OTHER SAUDI
CITIES MIGHT BE MORE THAN AN ISOLATED ONE-TIME

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 12 JUL 2006 200505106

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PHENOMENON.

3. I AM OBVIOUSLY IN NO POSITION TO EVALUATE THE FOREGOING BUT PASS IT ALONG AS SOMETHING THAT MUBARAK AT LEAST BELIEVES, AND AS A POSSIBLE PIECE IN THE LARGER PUZZLE THAT WASHINGTON AND JIDDA WILL BE TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER DURING THE PERIOD AHEAD.

4. FINALLY, MUBARAK TOLD ME HE HAD LEARNED THAT AL-AHRAM PLANNED TO BANNER HEADLINE THE REPORT OF DISTURBANCES IN FIVE SAUDI CITIES. HE HAD KILLED THE STORY, WHICH CLEARLY WOULD HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED BY THE SAUDIS AS PROVOCATIVE AND COULD ONLY HAVE DAMAGED EGYPTIAN-SAUDI RELATIONS. ATHERTON

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 07670 231430Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 SES-01 SSN-02 SPH-01 SY-05 SYE-00
MCT-02 /061 W

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O 231421Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5610
INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 07670

E.O.12065: GDS 11/23/85 (NEWTON, DAVID G.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, SY, US
SUBJECT: (C) SYRIAN MEDIA ATTACKS LINKING US TO SEIZURE
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OF GRAND MOSQUE

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

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2. THE INFLAMMATORY BROADCAST BY RADIO DAMASCUS NOVEMBER 21 LINKING THE US AND ISRAEL TO THE SEIZURE BY RELIGIOUS FANATICS OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA WAS CARRIED IN SUMMARY FORM BY THE LOCAL PRESS NOVEMBER 22. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE COMMENTARY WAS BROADCAST TWICE ON THE SAME DAY BY SYRIAN TELEVISION.

3. IN ADDITION, AL-BAATH SAME DAY CARRIED EDITORIAL MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

--HE WHO FOLLOWS THE ACTIONS OF THOSE SEIZING THE MOSQUE CAN EASILY KNOW THE OBJECTIVE OF THE IMPERIALIST AND ZIONIST DESIGNS: TO EXPLODE THE DIFFERENCES AND CONTRADICTIONS IN THE REGION WITH THE AIM OF IMPEDING THE WORK OF THE FORCES WHICH STAND IN THE FACE OF THESE DESIGNS;

--ISRAEL BURNED THE AL-AQSA MOSQUE AFTER THE AGGRESSION OF 1967 WITH THE AIM OF HARMING ISLAMIC TEXTS AND RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS AND NOW COMES THE ROLE OF THE REACTIONARY AGENTS OF AMERICA TO COMPLETE THE RING OF PLOTTING BY ATTACKING THE HOLY MOSQUE IN MECCA TO ACHIEVE THIS VERY END;

--HODDING CARTER ANNOUNCED THE EVENTS IN MECCA BEFORE THE ISSUANCE OF ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY SAUDI SOURCES;

--IT CAN BE SAID THAT THIS ATTACK (ON THE MOSQUE) AFFIRMS THAT THE FORCES OF CAMP DAVID ARE CONTINUING TO CARRY OUT THEIR CONSPIRACY.

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4. PRESS NOVEMBER 23 DOES NOT CARRY SUCH ARTICLES BUT REPORTS ON EVENTS IN MECCA IN STRAIGHTFORWARD FASHION, RELYING ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. DURING FRIDAY SERVICES AT MOSQUE NEAR EMBASSY, SERMON DEALT WITH SEIZURE OF MOSQUE, STATING THIS WAS ACT CONTRARY TO ISLAM AND AGAINST WILL OF GOD. THOSE WHO COMMIT SUCH ACTS ARE HERETICS AND WILL BE PUNISHED ACCORDINGLY. NO REPEAT NO MENTION WAS MADE OF US OR ISRAEL BEING BEHIND ACT. SERMON WAS BEING TAPED FOR BROADCAST ON SYRIA RADIO AND TELEVISION.

5. COMMENT: TEXTS OF FRIDAY SERMONS ARE PROVIDED BY MINISTRY OF AWQAFS AND RELIGIOUS FIGURES ARE INSTRUCTED NOT TO DEVIATE FROM GOVERNMENT-PROVIDED TEXTS. POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE RULED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT RELIGIOUS LEADERS MIGHT DELIVER THEIR OWN REMARKS SINCE THIS HAS OCCURRED IN THE PAST WHEN

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SERMONS HAVE ATTACKED GOVERNMENT. AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING,
HOWEVER, SARG APPEARS TO HAVE BACKED OFF ITS OFFENSIVE AND
INFLAMMATORY ATTACKS AGAINST USG. NEWTON

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PAGE 01 KARACH 06720 251506Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 SY-05 SYE-00 SES-01 SPH-01 SSN-02 /057 W
-----003639 251509Z /42 23

O R 231208Z NOV 79
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6826
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS KARACHI 6720

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 12065: NA
TAGS: PINT, AEMR PK
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION NOV 25 (PART TWO)

1. NEWS SUMMARY:

ALL KARACHI MORNING DAILIES FRONT PAGED IN
SINGLE-COLUMN AMBASSADOR HUMMEL STATEMENT DENYING
THAT "ANY SHOT WAS FIRED FROM US EMBASSY ON
WEDNESDAY WHEN DEMONSTRATORS HAD ATTACKED THE EMBASSY."
OTHER ITEMS REPORTED PROMINENTLY BY MEDIA INCLUDED
APP/ISLAMABAD: "PAKISTAN BACKS IRANIAN REQUEST,"
BASED ON PAKISTAN'S SUPPORT FOR AN IMMEDIATE MEET-
ING OF SECURITY COUNCIL; AFP/PEKING: "HUA'S CONCERN
OVER EVENTS IN IRAN, PAKISTAN," SAYING THAT HE (HUA)
FEARED A BOOST IN SOVIET INFLUENCE IN MIDEAST IF
CRISIS BETWEEN IRAN AND US WAS NOT RESOLVED; PPI/
WASHINGTON: "US LAUDS PAKISTAN FOR HANDLING SITUATION,"
BASED ON HODDING CARTER STATEMENT.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENTS:

MORNING NEWS, SECOND LARGEST ENGLISH KARACHI
DAILY, IN ITS EDITORIAL COMMENT ON REACTION IN
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PAKISTAN TO OCCUPATION OF HARAM SHARIF SAYS: "NEWS
WAS FOLLOWED BY A SPATE OF RUMOURS WHICH CAUSED
WIDESPREAD ANGER AND GRIEF. THERE WERE VIOLENT
REACTIONS IN SOME PARTS OF PAKISTAN WHICH WAS

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CREATED IN THE NAME OF ISLAM. UNFOUNDED AND WHOLLY WILD RUMORS REMAINED IN CIRCULATION EVENTUALLY LEADING TO SOME UGLY AND TRAGIC INCIDENTS. AUTHORITIES NOT ONLY WATCHED SITUATION WITH GREAT DEAL OF CALM AND UNDERSTANDING, THEY PROMPTLY SWUNG INTO ACTION IN DEFENDING LIVES OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE WRONGLY IDENTIFIED AS TARGET OF PEOPLE'S WRATH. IT IS, HOWEVER, GRATIFYING THAT ADMINISTRATION, UNDER GUIDANCE OF PRESIDENT GENERAL MOHAMMAD ZIA-UL-HAQ, TOOK EFFECTIVE STEPS TO RESCUE THEM. SINCE THEN, GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ADOPTING MORE STRINGENT MEASURES TO CURB SUCH ACTIVITIES AND RESTORE A SENSE OF CONFIDENCE AMONG FOREIGNERS."

JANG, LEADING INDEPENDENT URDU DAILY, EDIT TITLED "MUSLIM WORLD AND MASS MEDIA" COMMENTED ON OCCUPATION OF HOLY KAABA" : "WESTERN MASS MEDIA ARE VERY ALERT IN REPORTING EVENTS IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES. ALONG WITH IT THEY ALSO TRY TO CREATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AMONG MUSLIMS. PAKISTAN AND ALMOST ALL MUSLIM COUNTRIES HAVE REALIZED THIS DURING THEIR CRISIS PERIODS. LATEST BITTER EXPERIENCE IS LINKED WITH REPORTS RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES. AS ZIAUL HAQ SAID IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW TO AN AMERICAN TV CORRESPONDENT, THERE ARE NO ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENTS IN PAKISTAN. EVENTS OF WEDNESDAY WERE RESULTS OF FALSE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES. CERTAIN FOREIGN MASS MEDIA REPORTS AND COMMENTS GIVE IMPRESSION TO PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN THAT US HAD A HAND BEHIND HOLY

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KAABA EPISODE. HAD FOREIGN MASS MEDIA NOT INDULGED IN MISCHIEF, TRAGIC EVENTS WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED IN ISLAMABAD IN WHICH SOME LIVES OF AMERICANS AND PAKISTANIS WERE LOST."

INDEPENDENT URDU DAILY HURRIYET REFERRING TO PAKISTANI CABINET'S EXPRESSION OF SORROW ON ATTACKS ON FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND THE DECISION TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTIVE MEASURES, SAYS: "DECISION TO INVESTIGATE THESE EVENTS IS GOOD ONE, BECAUSE IGNORING SUCH CONDEMNABLE ACTIVITIES CAUSED BY WHATEVER REASONS IS TANTAMOUNT TO ENCOURAGING PERSONS INVOLVED IN THEM."

NATIONAL PRESS TRUST URDU DAILY MASHRIQ SAYS:

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"IN VIEW OF LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY IN LAHORE, ISLAMABAD AND RAWALPINDI, CABINET'S DECISION THAT TIGHTER MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN FOR PROTECTING FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC OFFICES AND CENTERS IS EXTREMELY DESIRABLE."

3. KARACHI URDU LANGUAGE DAILY HURRIYET (INDEPENDENT) FRONTPAGES UNCREDITED WASHINGTON DATED LINE STORY TITLED "MYSTERIOUS BROADCAST AND AMERICAN EMBASSY." FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF TRANSLATION:
AMERICAN PAPERS ARE PUBLISHING WITH REGULARITY STATEMENTS AND INTERVIEWS ATTRIBUTED TO EMBASSY STAFF ABOUT THE ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN EMBASSY BY A HOSTILE MOB IN ISLAMABAD. THIS MAY HAVE SOME PARTICULAR OBJECTIVE. IT MAY BE RECALLED THAT ON LAST WEDNESDAY, IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIVING THE NEWS OF THE SEIZURE OF KAABA MOSQUE BY AN ARMED GROUP, A HOSTILE MOB SET THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD ON FIRE. AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS ARE FILING THEIR STORIES TO THEIR NEWSPAPERS PROVIDING ONE-SIDED INFORMATION BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY VERSION FROM THE OTHER SIDE.
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PAGE 04 KARACH 06720 251506Z

INSPITE OF THIS NO NEWS OF ANY PROTEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED. ALTHOUGH ON THE PREVIOUS DAY TIRES OF AUTOMOBILES OF PAKISTANIS WERE SLASHED IN THE SUBURBS.

ACCORDING TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT A "MYSTERIOUS BROADCAST" PROVOKED THE PAKISTANIS AND INCITED THEM TO ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. ACCORDING TO STATE DEPARTMENT "MYSTERIOUS BROADCAST", NOT RADIO PAKISTAN, CERTAINLY HELD AMERICA AND ISRAEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESECRATION OF THE HOLY MOSQUE.

4. THE LEADER, AFTERNOON DAILY FOUR PAGER (LIMITED CIRCULATION), CARRIES A LENGTHY REPORT CREDITED TO AFP IN WHICH IRANIAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS STRONGLY PLEAD FOR A UNITED STAND BY THE MUSLIM TO DEFEND ISLAM REPEATING ACCUSATION OF US/ISRAELI COMPLICITY IN THE OCCUPATION OF THE HOLY MOSQUE.
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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 SSM-03 SSN-02
SES-01 SPH-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 MCT-02 SMS-01 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /114 W

-----120223 231402Z /42

O 231335Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1295
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC

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E.O. 12065:NA
TAGS: PEPR, EG, XF
SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REVIEW NOVEMBER 22-23: UNIVERSAL
- CONDEMNATION OF EVENTS IN MECCA

1. SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN PRESS NOVEMBER 22-23 HAS BEEN DOM-
INATED BY REPORTS OF ASSAULT ON AL HARAAM MOSQUE, WITH
PAPERS EMPHASIZING SAUDI DENIAL THAT ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT
IS INVOLVED. PRESS NOTES ENEMIES OF ISLAM (USSR AND IRAN)
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HAVE EXPLOITED INCIDENT TO DIVIDE MUSLIM WORLD. EGYPTIAN
CABINET, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, AND
ARMED FORCES HAVE DENOUNCED INCIDENT STRONGLY, CALLING FOR
SEVERE PUNISHMENT OF THOSE INVOLVED. AS SECOND LEAD, PAPERS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUN 2006 200505106

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PROCLAIM FAILURE OF TUNIS SUMMIT WHERE PARTICIPANTS ARE SAID TO HAVE DUCKED BOTH MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH LEBANON ISSUES. SADAT'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) HAS FORMED POLITICAL BUREAU TO ASSIST FLAGGING ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS; AL OMMA (NATION) PARTY, LED BY PRE-WWII NEO-FASCISTS, HAS FILED FOR LEGAL STATUS. END SUMMARY.

2. AL HARAAM. NOVEMBER 22-23 CAIRO PRESS HAS BEEN DOMINATED BY REPORTS OF ASSAULT ON AL HARAAM MOSQUE, HOLIEST SPOT IN ISLAMIC WORLD. PRESS REPORTS HAVE BEEN FACTUAL, QUOTING OFFICIAL SAUDI STATEMENTS, BUT HAVE CONTAINED CONSIDERABLE PRAISE FOR SAG RESTRAINT IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER BLOOD-SHED. PAPERS HEADLINE SAUDI DENIAL OF ANY FOREIGN BACK-ING FOR OCCUPATION OF MOSQUE, SPECIFICALLY NOTING THERE IS NO FOUNDATION TO ALLEGATIONS OF UNITED STATES OR IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT. ASSAULT IS SAID TO BE RESULT OF "RELIGIOUS DEVIATION" WITH NO POLITICAL OVERTONES. DESPITE THIS, AKHBAR NOTES THAT "MARXIST COMMUNISTS" HAVE CAPITALIZED ON CRIMINAL OPERATION TO FABRICATE ACCUSATIONS DESIGNED TO STIR UP ISLAMIC NATION. PAPER SAYS THESE RUMORS PLAYED ROLE IN FOMENTING DISTURBANCES ELSEWHERE (PAKISTAN AND TURKEY).

3. CONDEMNATIONS. GRAND SHEIKH OF AL AZHAR DR BISSAR DENOUNCED OPERATION AS "EVIL ACT OF AGGRESSION." GRAND MUFTI WENT ONE STEP FURTHER, CALLING FOR "ELIMINATION OF THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT ATTACK," INFLECTING UPON THEM THE "PUNISHMENT THEY DESERVE." EGYPTIAN CABINET FORMALLY DENOUNCED ATTACK, AND ADVOCATED FIRM STANCE AGAINST "GROUND-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LESS FANATICISM". (COMMENT: THIS WILL BE READ AS HAVING CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC APPLICABILITY AS WELL.) SADAT CONFIDANT AND RELIGIOUS ADVISOR HASSAN TOHAMY CALLED UPON MUSLIMS WORLDWIDE TO CONFRONT THREAT FROM ANTI-ISLAMIC FORCES. PEOPLES ASSEMBLY RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TERMED ASSAULT "CRIMINAL AND HEINOUS". COMMITTEE SAID DECISIVE MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN TO FREE MOSQUE AND PUNISH "RENEGADES", WHO "HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ISLAM." EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES JOINED CHORUS OF DENUNICATIONS' IN UNUSUAL GESTURE, PAPERS PROMINENTLY REPORT STATEMENT BY PRINCIPAL SUFI LEADER, IN WHICH HE TERMED ASSAULT "A SINFUL CRIME." STATEMENT WAS DELIVERED AT HEJIRA SERVICES ATTENDED BY VP MUBARAK, MINISTER OF INTERIOR NABAWI ISMAIL, CAIRO GOVERNOR SAAD MA'AMUN, AND LEADING ARMED FORCES OFFICERS. (COMMENT: THIS IS MOST PROMINENT COVERAGE OF SUFI SERVICE WE CA

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CAN RECALL IN RECENT YEARS.)

4. TUNIS FLOP. ALL PAPERS CLAIM TUNIS SUMMIT ENDED WITHOUT RECONCILING ARAB POSITION ON TWO MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS: MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND SOUTHERN LEBANON. ALL PARTICIPANTS COULD AGREE UPON, PRESS NOTES, IS THAT ME RESOLUTION SHOULD ACHIEVE "JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE". AS FOR LEBANON, RICH ARAB STATES REPORTEDLY WILL OFFER GOVERNMENT BETWEEN 450 AND 700 MILLION DOLLARS IF IT DROPS DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF PALESTINIAN TROOPS FROM SOUTHERN PORTION OF COUNTRY. NEVERTHELESS, PLO IS SAID TO HAVE OFFERED "SECRET" PLEDGE TO HALT MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL FROM LEBANESE SOIL.

5. DOMESTIC POLITICS. PRESIDENT SADAT YESTERDAY ISSUED DECREE ESTABLISHING 14 MEMBER POLITICAL BUREAU FOR HIS NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP). SADAT WILL HEAD BUREAU, WHICH ALSO WILL INCLUDE VP MUBARAK, PM KHALIL, ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SUFI ABU TALEB, MINDEF KEMAL HASSAN ALI, MININT NABAWI ISMAIL, FIKRI MEKRAM EBEID, MINSTATE MANSOUR HASSAN

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ACTION NEA-11

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SES-01 SPH-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 MCT-02 SMS-01 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /114 W

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O 231335Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1296
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AND OTHER PROMINENT OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, BUREAU WILL PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN POLICY FORMATION LEADING UP TO PARTY CONGRESS IN OCTOBER 1980. (COMMENT: FROM SOURCES CLOSE TO PARTY LEADERSHIP, WE UNDERSTAND BUREAU'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO GIVE GREATER VIGOR TO PARTY'S FLAGGING ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS. PARTY LEADERS PLAN TO EFFECT MAJOR CHANGES IN NDP PERSONNEL PRIOR TO OCTOBER CONGRESS.) PAPERS ALSO NOTE AL OMMA (NATION) PARTY HAS FILED FORMAL APPLICATION FOR LEGALIZATION WITH ASU CENTRAL COM-
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MITTEE. ACTING ASU SECRETARY GENERAL WELCOMED APPLICATION, TELLING PRESS COMMITTEE WILL MEET TO DECIDE ON WHETHER IT WILL AUTHORIZE A FIFTH POLITICAL PARTY WITHIN TWO WEEKS. (COMMENT: AL OMMA GROUP IS DOMINATED BY INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY LEADER IBRAHIM SHUKRI IN PRE-WWII NEO-FASCIST MISR AL FATTAH. IN THE EVENT IT IS GRANTED LEGAL STATUS, WE DOUBT IT WILL ATTRACT MUCH POPULAR SUPPORT.) ATHERTON

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FM-06 H-01 INR-10
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MCT-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 A-02 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02
COM-02 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 ACDA-12 SES-01 SSN-02
SPH-01 AID-05 ANAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 /104 W

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O 231212Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4170
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL MADRAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 21392

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THOUGH INDIA CONTAINS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST MUSLIM POPULATIONS (70 MILLION OR 12 PERCENT OF POPULATION), THE INDIAN MUSLIM REACTION TO EVENTS IN MECCA SO FAR HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, PUBLIC RESPONSE HAS BEEN LIMITED TO KASHMIR, THE ONLY INDIAN STATE HAVING A MUSLIM MAJORITY POPULATION AND HYDERABAD WHERE A CURFEW WAS IMPOSED NOV 23 FOLLOWING DISTURBANCES. A GENERAL STRIKE WAS OBSERVED NOVEMBER 22 IN SRINAGAR AND ALMOST ALL TOWNS IN KASHMIR IN PROTEST AGAINST THE OCCUPATION OF MECCA'S GRAND MOSQUE BY GUNMEN. AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE VALLEY OF KASHMIR HAVE BEEN ORDERED CLOSED AND RIOT POLICE STATIONED IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS. PRESS REPORTS ALSO INDICATED THAT VITAL INSTALLATIONS AND CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS

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HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER ARMED MILITARY GUARD TO PREVENT ANY OUTBURST DIRECTED AGAINST THEM. THESE REPORTS INDICATE THAT NO VIOLENCE OCCURRED IN KASHMIR NOVEMBER 22 BUT THAT GROUPS OF DEMONSTRATORS

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SHOUTING ANTI-U.S. AND ANTI-CARTER SLOGANS ROAMED THE STREETS OF SRINAGAR AND OTHER TOWNS.

3. IN HYDERABAD, CAPITAL OF ANDHRA PRADESH AND WITH A LARGE MUSLIM POPULATION, THE INITIAL REACTION TO THE MECCA TAKEOVER WAS A NOVEMBER 22 STATEMENT OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF ALL OF THE CITY'S MUSLIM SECTS ALLEGING A "ZIONIST-IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACY TO SOW THE SEEDS OF DISCORD AMONG ARAB NATIONS AND TO ULTIMATELY TRIGGER A FRATRICIDAL WAR." ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, DEFIANCE OF A NOVEMBER 23 CALL BY MULLAHS TO OBSERVE A GENERAL STRIKE LED TO CLASHES AND POLICE FIRING. A CURFEW WAS IMPOSED AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 23. IN DELHI, WHICH ALSO HAS A LARGE MUSLIM POPULATION, THERE HAS BEEN NO VIOLENCE BUT SPECIAL FRIDAY PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN THE CITY'S MOSQUES.

4. THE ATTENTION OF MANY OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST PROMINENT MULLAHS HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT DISTRACTED BY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES AS THE LATTER DRAFT THEIR ELECTION MANIFESTOS AND DETERMINE THEIR POSITION ON MINORITY ISSUES. THE NATION'S MOST PROMINENT MULLAH, THE SHAH IMAM BUKHARI OF NEW DELHI'S JAMA MASJID MOSQUE ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION TO JOIN MRS. GANDHI ON NOVEMBER 22. LENGTHY ACCOUNTS OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE HELD ON THE SAME DAY CONTAIN NO REFERENCE TO EVENTS OUTSIDE OF INDIA. NOVEMBER 23 NEWSPAPERS ARE FILLED WITH THE ANGRY REBUTTALS OF RIVAL DIVINES WHOSE ATTENTION SIMILARLY IS ON DOMESTIC POLITICS.

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5. NONETHELESS, A BROADER REACTION IS VERY POSSIBLE. THE HISTORY OF COMMUNAL RIOTING IN THIS COUNTRY OFFERS AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT EVEN A MINOR INCIDENT CAN GENERATE A RAPID ESCALATION OF RELIGIOUS PASSIONS AND THE KASHMIR REACTION POINTS TO CONSIDERABLE TENSION AMONG MUSLIMS. ONE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE AREA IS LUCKNOW, THE HOME OF INDIA'S LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF SHIITES. THERE HAVE BEEN FREQUENT SUNNI-SHIA CLASHES IN PAST YEARS IN LUCKNOW IN THE WEEK OF MOHARRAM. AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, OFFICIALS NOVEMBER 22 INITIATED INTENSIVE POLICE PATROLLING IN THE OLD PARTS OF THE CITY. OFFICIAL SOURCES QUOTED IN THE NOVEMBER 22 HINDUSTAN TIMES NOTE A SHARP ESCALATION OF TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN THE WAKE OF THE TAKEOVER OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA.

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6. THERE IS ALSO A LARGE NUMBER OF IRANIAN STUDENTS IN LUCKNOW, A GROUP OF WHOM WROTE TO THE AMBASSADOR ON NOVEMBER 10 IN SUPPORT OF THE IRANIAN DETENTION OF HOSTAGES IN THERAN. THE EMBASSY GAVE THE LETTER TO POLICE AUTHORITIES ON NOVEMBER 22.

7. WE HAVE IMPOSED A LIMITATION ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO LUCKNOW AND KASHMIR AT LEAST THROUGH DECEMBER 3 AND ARE ADVISING EXTRA CAUTION IN TRAVEL TO HYDERABAD. BOTH MISSION PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN CAUTIONED ABOUT VISITS TO OLD DELHI WHERE THE CAPITAL'S LARGE MUSLIM MINORITY IS CONCENTRATED.

8. INDIAN EDITORIAL REACTION TO THE TAKEOVER IN MECCA, AS WELL AS TO THE BURNING OF THE EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD, HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY NEGATIVE. THE ONE CONSPICUOUS EXCEPTION WAS THE PRO-MOSCOW PATRIOT WHOSE NOVEMBER 23 EDITORIAL ON THE "GATHERING STORM" OVER THE GULF REGION CONCLUDES THAT "THE IRANIANS MAY BE RIGHT" IN ACCUSING WASHINGTON OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK ON

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THE GRAND MOSQUE. THE PAPER STATES THAT THE U.S. "IS INTERESTED IN RAISING A TUMULT IN THE REGION FOR FACTIONAL PURPOSES IN SUADI ARABIA AND TO CREATE A DIVERSION IN ORDER TO PREPARE A MILITARY CONFRONTATION WITH IRAN."

9. THIS LINE IS FIRMLY REJECTED BY THE NATION'S THREE MAJOR URDU LANGUAGE DAILIES, MOST OF WHOSE READERSHIP IS MUSLIM. THE NOVEMBER 23 DEITIONS OF ALL THREE PAPERS ABLSOLVE THE U.S. OF ANY RESPONSIBILITY OR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ATTACK IN MECCA. THE TEJ NEWS REPORT OF THE INCIDENT DESCRIBES THE GUNMEN AS "PROBABLY SAUDI ARABIANS WHO HAD DEVIATED FROM THE PATH OF ISLAM." THE MILAP (JULLUNDUR) EDITORIAL PINS PROBABLE BLAME ON THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI "WHO WANTS TO CONQUER THE ENTIRE ISLAMIC WORLD./ THE PRATAP (DELHI) ALSO POINTS TO PORBABLE IRANIAN RESPONSIBILITY "BECAUSE IRANIANS MAY HAVE BEEN ANGERED BY SAUDI ARABIAN SUPPORT OF AMERICA." ON THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD, THE PAPER NOTES THAT IT REPRESENTS A "GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW PEOPLE CAN BE FOOLED BY RUMORS SUCH AS THAT THE U.S. AND ISRAEL WERE INVOLVED ONLY TO LEAR LATER THAT THEY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT AND THUS MAKING FOOLS OF THEMSELVES. GOHEEN

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PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05
OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-02 SSN-02 /078 W
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O 241830Z NOV 79
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DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN AIMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASDUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAM A IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASS MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 8095

USLO FOR AMBASSADOR

DPET PASS TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/24/85 (PLACKE JAMES A) OR-M
TAGS: PINS ASEC SA
SUBJ : (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE, MECCA:
THE DRAMA APPARENTLY ENDS

REF: JIDDA 8094 DTG 240830Z (NOTAL)

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1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE DRAMA AT MECCA IS APPARENTLY ALMOST, IF NOT COMPLETELY OVER
AND THE ENDING APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DRAMATIC AND VIOLENT.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 23 JUN 2006 200505106

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AMERICAN PILOTS (STRICTLY PROTECT) FLYING SAUDI CIVIL DEFENSE HELICOPTERS ON CONTRACT TOLD POLOFF THAT THEY HAD HOVERED OVER THE GRAND MOSQUE AND VICINITY BETWEEN 1335 AND 1500 HOURS GMT NOV 24 AND OBSERVED WHAT THEY BELIEVE WAS MOPPING UP STAGE OF THE FINAL ASSAULT ON THE MOSQUE. HELICOPTERS WERE BEING USED BY SAUDIS FOR RECONNAISSANCE PURPOSES.

3. PILOTS STATE THAT WHEN THEY CAME ON STATION AT 1335 HOURS GMT, THEY OBSERVED TWO APC'S DRIVING AROUND THE INTERIOR COURTYARD OF THE MOSQUE AND RAPIDLY FIRING THEIR WEAPONS INTO THE SURROUNDING RAMPARTS. PILOTS COULD NOT DETERMINE WHETHER APC'S WERE FIRING AT THE FIRST OR SECOND STORIES. THEY OBSERVED BLACK SMOKE RISING FROM A PORTION OF THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE BUILDING AS THE RESULT OF ONE OF THESE FUSILLADES, AND LATER OBSERVED ANOTHER LARGE QUANTITY OF SMOKE RISING FROM THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE BUILDING. GREATEST DAMAGE APPEARED TO BE ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE MOSQUE, THE SIDE WHICH HAS A LONG GALLERY EXTENDING AT RIGHT ANGLES FROM THE MAIN BUILDING. HERE, A VERY LARGE FIRE WAS BLAZING FROM THE GROUND TO THE SECOND STORY IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE TWIN MINARETS. FIRE ENGINES OUTSIDE THE MOSQUE WERE TRYING TO CONTAIN THE FIRE. PILOTS STATED THAT SOME OF THE SEVEN MINARETS OF THE MOSQUE HAD BEEN BADLY RIDDLED BY THE APC FIRE. ON THE LONG EXTENDED GALLERY ITSELF, PILOTS STATED THAT THEY SAW 40-50 SAUDI SOLDIERS (PROBABLY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN) STANDING ON THE ROOF. THEY APPEARED TO BE STANDING IDLY AND NOT MAINTAINING ANY PARTICULAR MILITARY POSITION. EIGHT ADDITIONAL APC'S WERE IN THE STREET SURROUNDING THE MOSQUE, BUT THEY WERE NOT FIRING THEIR WEAPONS.

4. PILOTS SAID THAT SAUDI OFFICER ACCOMPANYING THEM HAS TOLD THEM
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ASSAULT HAD BEGUN IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON AND WAS LED BY QTE A GENERAL UNQTE. THERE WAS NO ESTIMATE AS TO CASUALTIES, AND PILOTS STATE THEY SAW NO DEAD OR WOUNDED, ALTHOUGH PRESUMABLY NUMBER WAS CONSIDERABLE. AS ONE INDICATION, EMBASSY LEARNED EARLIER TODAY THAT AT 1100 GMT NOV 24, ALL MUSLIM DOCTORS AND STAFF AT THE JIDDA MILITARY HOSPITAL (ABOUT 20-25 PERSONS) WERE INSTRUCTED TO PROCEED TO MECCA AND TO BRING ALONG AN OVERNIGHT BAG.

5. PILOTS SAID THAT JUST PRIOR TO RETURNING TO JIDDA BASE, THEY WERE INSTRUCTED TO FLY LOW OVER THE RIDGES NEAR THE MOSQUE. ACCOMPANYING SAUDI OFFICER TOLD THEM THAT UNKNOWN NUMBER OF ISLAMIC DISSIDENTS HAD MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE GRAND MOSQUE AND WERE BELIEVED TO BE HIDING IN THE VICINITY OF MECCA. PILOTS SAID THEY SAW NO SUSPICIOUS PERSONS, ALTHOUGH SAUDI SOLDIERS APPEARED TO BE ALMOST EVERYWHERE.

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6. COMMENT: PRIOR TO TODAY'S ASSAULT, SAUDI STRATEGY HAD BEEN VERY MUCH ONE OF "STARVING OUT" THE ISLAMIC DISSIDENTS OCCUPYING THE MOSQUE. THE FACT THAT THIS POLICY FAILED AND THAT DRACONIAN MEASURES HAD TO BE USED TO FINALLY SECURE THIS MOST HOLY AND SANCTIFIED SHRINE IS PROBABLY A REFLECTION OF BOTH THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE DISSIDENTS WERE ARMED AND THE FACT THAT THE SAUDI CASUALTY RATED HAD REACHED AN INTOLERABLE LEVEL. SAUDIS MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF THEIR OWN PUBLICITY. WHILE NOT QUITE CLAIMING TOTAL VICTORY, OFFICIAL SAUDI COMMENT HAS REPEATEDLY STATED OVER PAST TWO DAYS THAT MOSQUE COMPLETELY IN CONTROL OF SAUDI FORCES AND THAT OPERATION NOW IN ITS LAST STAGES (SEE FBIS LONDON LD240628 FOR EXAMPLE). THIS WAS CLEARLY NOT THE CASE, AND WITH NEWSPAPERS LIKE THE NOV 24 ARAB NEWS PROUDLY ANNOUNCING THAT QTE THE HOLY KA'ABA IS SAVED UNQTE, SAG PROBABLY FELT IT HAD MORE TO LOSE THAN TO GAIN BY NOT TAKING THE ACTION NECESSARY TO BRING THE GRAND MOSQUE BACK INTO ITS CONTROL QUICKLY. WEST

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 8094

E.O. 21065: GDS 11/24/85 (PLACKE JAMES A)
TAGS: PINS ASEC SA
SUBJ : (S) OCCUPATION OF THE GRAND MOSQUE, MECCA:
SITUATION AS OF 0600Z NOV 24

4REF: JIDDA 8088 DTG 231404Z NOV 79

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT
2. SITUATION IN MECCA HAS APPARENTLY NOT CHANGED
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 08094 240920Z

CDRAMATICALLY SINCE REFTTEL. WELL-ARMED ISLAMIC DISSIDENTS
CONTINUE TO HOLD ESTIMATED 20 PERCENT OF THE GRAND MOSQUE,
LARGELY ON THE TOP FLOOR AND SOME OF THE MINARETS. OVER PAST
TWELVE HOURS, SAUDI NATIONAL GUARDSMEN, WHO HAVE BEEN PRINCIPALLY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUN 2006 200505106

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INVOLVED IN RESECURING THE MOSQUE, HAVE CONSOLIDATED THEIR HOLD OVER OTHER AREAS OF THE MOSQUE. POCKETS OF RESISTANCE IN THE BASEMENT HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ELIMINATED WITH UNKNOWN NUMBER OF DISSIDENTS KILLED OR CAPTURED AND WITH THE HOSTAGES BEING HELD THERE RELEASED. CASUALTIES IN GENERAL ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE ARE REPORTED AS MODERATE AND ARE LARGELY BEING TREATED AT THE NATIONAL GUARD HOSPITAL IN MECCA. SAUDI AUTHORITIES TELL US THAT TUSFAR RELATIVELY FEW OF THE DISSIDENTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN ALIVE.

3 MECCA REMAINS LARGELY SEALED OFF. TRAVELLORS FROM TAIF WHICH IS LOCATED SOME 60 MILES BEYOND MECCA REPORT THAT ALL VEHICLES DEPARTING THAT CITY ARE BEING CAREFULLY SEARCHED BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES. SAUDI OFFICER TOLD EMBOFF NOV 23 THAT SAG IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT SOME OF THE DISSIDENTS HAVE MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM MECCA, DESPITE THE TIGHT CORDON THROWN AROUND THE GRAND MOSQUE.

4. OFFICIAL SAUDI COMMENT ON THE SITUATION IN MECCA CONTINUES TO EMPHASIZE THAT SITUATION IS STABLE AND THAT SECURITY FORCES NOW IN TOTAL CONTROL OF THE MOSQUE AND IN THE PROCESS OF ARRESTING THE REMNANTS OF THE GROUP WHICH OCCUPIED IT. SAUDI OFFICIAL COMMENT IS BEING SUPPLEMENTED BY LOCAL PRESS ARTICLES (INCLUDING AN EDITORIAL IN A SPECIAL EDITION OF LOCAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER NOV 23) WHICH EMPHASIZE THAT WHILE SAG IS IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION, A LEADING SAUDI CONCERN AT THE MOMENT IS TO PREVENT ANY DAMAGE TO THE MOSQUE AND TO MINIMIZE CASUALTIES.

5. EVENTS AT THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA WERE ALSO THE SUBJECT OF THE FRIDAY PRAYERS AT MOSQUES THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM NOV 23.

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PAGE 03 JIDDA 08094 240920Z

BROADCAST BY LOUDSPEAKERS FROM THE MINARETS (A NOT UNCOMMON PRACTICE), THE PRAYER LEADERS CONDEMNED WHAT THEY CALLED A HEINOUS ACT BY A GROUP OF RENEGADES AGAINST ISLAM AND DEMANDED THAT THE MOST SEVERE PUNISHMENT BE IMPOSED ON THE GROUP.

6. RUMORS AROUND AS TO FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN THE OCCUPATION OF THE MOSQUE, WITH MOST OF THE FINGERS AT PRESENT BEING POINTED AT SOUTH YEMEN. SAG CONTINUES TO DENY ANY FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, SAUDI INFORMATION MINISTER DR MUHAMMAD YAMANI CHARACTERIZED AS BOTH BASELESS AND A COMPLETE CALUMNY A TASS REPORT THAT US COMMANDOS HAVE BEEN SENT TO DHAHRAN. IN A NEWS ITEM CARRIED BY RADIO RIYADH NOV 23 (SEE FBIS LONDON LD 231826), YAMANI SAID THAT SUCH REPORTS WERE INTENDED TO QUOTE CREATE CONFUSION UNQUOTE. WEST

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05307 01 OF 03 241349Z
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
-----128436 241359Z /50

O O 241307Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4790
INFO AMEMBASSY ABI DHABI PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 KUWAIT 5307

EXDIS DECAPTIONED

RIYADH PASS TO TREASURY SECRETARY MILLER'S PARTY

BRUSSELS FOR USOECD

E.O. 12065: XDS-1 11/24/89 (DICKMAN, FRANCOIS M.) OR-M
TAGS: EFIN, KU, US
SUBJECT: KUWAIT ATTITUDE TOWARD OPEC DEVELOPMENT BANK AND US
FREEZE OF IRANIAN ASSETS

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT).
2. SUMMARY: KUWAIT FUND'S AL HAMAD IS NOT SNAGUINE THAT
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OPEC FUND CAN BE CONVERTED INTO DEVELOPMENT BANK UNLESS
OPEC MEMBERS WILLING TO APPROVE MEASURES ENABLE SUCH A
BANK TO BORROW ON CAPITAL MARKET AS DOES IBRD. AS FOR
EVENTS IN IRAN, AL HAMAD FEELS US HAS ACTED WITH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 12 JUL 2006 200505106

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COMMENDABLE RESTRAINT BUT THAT FREEZE OF IRANIAN GOVERNMENT ASSETS WAS A MISTAKE. IRANIANS WOULD HAVE QUICKLY FOUND OUT THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER PLACE TO PUT THEIR RESERVES EXCEPT IN DOLLARS WHICH WOULD HAVE STRENGTHENED, NOT WEAKENED POSITION OF DOLLAR. HE BELIEVES DECISION HAS HAD ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ESPECIALLY IN COUNTRIES WITH LARGE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES. IT WILL MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES LIKE KUWAIT TO CONTINUE PRODUCE OIL BEYOND INCOME REQUIREMENTS AND COULD HURT US ROLE IN WORLD BANKING SYSTEM. SITUATION IN IRAN HAS NOT MADE IMPACT ON KUWAIT FINANCIAL SCENE BUT AL HAMAD REFLECTED GREAT CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF SEIZURE OF GRAND MOSQUE OF MECCA ON KUWAIT'S FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL SERENITY. END SUMMARY.

3. ON NOV. 24, HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH KUWAIT FUND DIRECTOR GENERAL ABD AL-LATIF AL HAMAD WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM ONE TRIP AND WHO IS DEPARTING TOMORROW EVENING FOR VIENNA OPEC FUND MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOV. 26 AND 27. ABD AL LATIF REGRETTED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE IN KUWAIT DURING VISIT OF TREASURY SECRETARY MILLER AND HIS PARTY. HOWEVER, HE EXPECTED RECEIVE REPORT OF MR. MILLER'S VISIT FROM SAUDI IMF REF MAHSUN JALLAL, WHO HAD ASKED OPEC FUND DELAY ITS FIRST MEETING UNTIL AFTERNOON NOV. 26 TO GIVE JALLAL TIME TRAVEL TO VIENNA FROM RIYADH.

4. ABD AL LATIF SAID OPEC FUND MEETING PRIMARILY TO
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REVIEW AND APPROVE LOANS IN LIGHT OF INCREASE IN FUND'S CAPITAL FROM 1.5 TO 2.3 BILLION DOLLARS. TO MY QUESTION, SAID HE EXPECTED OPEC FUND MEMBERS WOULD DISCUSS PROPOSALS TO CONVERT FUND INTO A DEVELOPMENT BANK SOMEWHAT AKIN TO IBRD. ABD AL LATIF, HOWEVER, WAS NOT VERY SANGUINE THAT ANYTHING WOULD COME OF THIS INITIATIVE FOR AN IMPORTANT TECHNICAL REASON. SAID IBRD CAN RAISE FUNDS BY BORROWING AGAINST ITS AUTHORIZED CAPITAL, THAT WHICH IS PAID IN AS WELL AS THAT WHICH HAS BEEN PLEDGED BUT NOT PAID IN. CREDITOR KNOWS THAT IBRD CAN CALL ON MEMBER MEET HIS PLEDGE TO COVER UNPAID CAPITAL AT MOMENTS NOTICE. HE DID NOT SEE AN OPEC DEVELOPMENT BANK WITH THIS KIND OF FACILITY. IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GO TO ALL OPEC MEMBERS TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH PAID-IN CAPITAL THEY WILLING

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AUTHORIZE FOR OPEC DEVELOPMENT BANK AND WHETHER WILLING TO PLEDGE ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS OF UNPAID CAPITAL. HE DID NOT THINK AN OPEC DEVELOPMENT BANK COULD RAISE FUNDS ON CAPITAL MARKETS ON AN UNSECURED BASIS.

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05307 02 OF 03 241431Z
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
-----128619 241441Z /50

O O 241307Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4791
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 03 KUWAIT 5307

EXDIS

RIYADH PASS TO TREASURY SECRETARY MILLER'S PARTY

BRUSSELS FOR USOECD

5. TURNING TO IRANIAN CRISIS, ABD AL LATIF ADMIRERED PRESIDENT CARTER FOR RESTRAINT HE HAD SHOWN. FELT PRESIDENT HAD HANDLED SITUATION VERY WELL UNTIL DECISION MADE TO FREEZE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT ASSETS. HE COULD APPRECIATE FACT THAT DECISION HAD BEEN MADE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF IRAN'S EXTREME PROVOCATION OF U.S. HE HAD BEEN IN U.S. AT TIME FREEZE WAS ANNOUNCED AND WAS AWARE OF INTENSITY OF PUBLIC FEELINGS. HOWEVER,

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HE FEARED DECISION WOULD HURT U.S. ROLE IN WORLD BANKING
SYSTEM MORE THAN IT WOULD HELP. WHILE RECOGNIZING IT
WOULD HAVE BEEN EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT
FOR ADMINISTRATION TO SELL TO U.S. PUBLIC, ABD AL LATIF
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FELT BEST WAY TO HAVE RESPONDED TO IRANIAN EFFORTS
CONVERT DOLLAR HOLDINGS INTO OTHER CURRENCIES WOULD HAVE
BEEN TO DO AS PRESIDENT CARTER DID FOR OIL, TELL
IRANIANS TO GO AHEAD, U.S. DID NOT NEED THEIR MONEY
EITHER. IRANIAN BANKERS WOULD HAVE QUICKLY LEARNED
THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY FEW PLACES TO PUT THEIR
MONEY, PARTICULARLY IF CENTRAL BANKERS IN
OTHER COUNTRIES HAD COOPERATED. NO PORTFOLIO
MANAGER WOULD BE WILLING CONVERT HIS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS
INTO 100 PERCENT LIQUIDITY IN OTHER CURRENCIES WHICH
WOULD GIVE HIM LITTLE RETURN AND FEW OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PLACEMENT IN OTHER CAPITAL MARKETS. IT WOULD
HAVE PROVEN ONCE AGAIN SUPREMACY OF DOLLAR AND ONCE
AGAIN THAT CENTRAL BANKS CAN'T PLAY AROUND WITH
RESERVES AS A POLITICAL WEAPON.

6. WHILE UNABLE TO PREDICT IMPACT OF DECISION, WHICH
HE RECOGNIZED WAS A FREEZE AND NOT CONFISCATION OF
IRANIAN GOVERNMENT ASSETS, ABD AL LATIF FELT THAT IT
ALREADY HAD HAD A BAD PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON COUNTRIES
WITH LARGE FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS. IN KUWAIT FOR
EXAMPLE, IT WOULD REINFORCE ARGUMENT TO STOP ACCUMULATING MORE
DOLLARS BY PRODUCING MORE OIL THAN COUNTRY'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE
NEEDS. IT WAS BETTER FOR KUWAIT TO REDUCE ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE
ASSETS AND KEEP THE OIL IN THE
GROUND SINCE THESE ASSETS COULD BE SUBJECT TO SEIZURE
UNDER SOME UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCE. HE ALSO THOUGHT
FREEZE WOULD EXACERBATE EURODOLLAR PROBLEM WHICH
WAS BEGINNING TO SHOW SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT AS RISE IN
INTEREST RATES IN US IN PAST YEAR HAD RESULTED
IN SLOW BUT PERCEPTIBLE SHIFT TOWARDS NEW YORK CITY
RATHER THAN EURO CURRENCY MARKET AS CENTER OF DOLLAR
ACTIVITY. FREEZE HAS "CAST A SHADOW OF SUSPICION".

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HE SURMISED THAT BOTH CHASE AND CITIBANK HAD BEEN

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INFLUENTIAL IN MOVING ADMINISTRATION TO PUSH FOR FREEZE BUT HE THOUGHT BOTH BANKS HAD ACTED "WITH STUPIDITY" AND WOULD BE HURT IN THE LONG RUN. HE NOTED THAT IRANIAN GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED IT WAS DEFAULTING LOANS MADE TO IT. HE THOUGHT NOW THAT BANKING COMMUNITY IN U.S. AND ELSEWHERE HAD HAD TIME TO GIVE THIS DECISION A SECOND THOUGHT, IT WOULD REALIZE THAT BECAUSE WORLD BANKING SYSTEM RELIES SO MUCH ON U.S. BANKING SYSTEM, ELEMENT OF DOUBT WHICH HAS NOW BEEN INJECTED WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ERASE.

7. ABD AL LATIF COMPLIMENTED STEPS TAKEN BY THE FED. HE FELT THAT FED NEEDED SEVERAL MONTHS OF HIGH INTEREST RATES TO CURB EXCESS INFLATION IN THE U.S. BUT HE WONDERED IF IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY POSSIBLE FOR THE FED TO HOLD OUT GIVEN CURRENT ELECTION FEVER IN THE U.S. HE RECOGNIZED THAT HIGH INTEREST RATES HAD BEGUN HAVE SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON REAL ESTATE MARKET WHICH IS SENSITIVE ISSUE FOR MOST AMERICANS AND ON WHICH POLITICIANS LIKELY TO PLAY UPON. HE REMARKED THAT PURPOSE OF HIS U.S. VISIT HAD BEEN TO GO TO CLAIRMONT COLLEGE IN CONNECTION WITH SEMINAR THAT INSTITUTION IS TO ORGANIZE IN KUWAIT EARLY NEXT YEAR FOR PURPOSE OF ECONOMIC FORECASTING (ABD AL LATIF IS A GRADUATE OF CLAIRMONT.)

8. MOVING TO EFFECT OF IRANIAN EVENTS ON KUWAITI DOMESTIC FINANCIAL SCENE, ABD AL LATIF SAID HE HAD DETECTED VERY LITTLE IMPACT.

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05307 03 OF 03 241434Z
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
-----128615 241440Z /42

O O 241307Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4792
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 03 OF 03 KUWAIT 5307

EXDIS

RIYADH PASS TO TREASURY SECRETARY MILLER'S PARTY

BRUSSELS FOR USOECD

HOWEVER, HE VOLUNTEERED THAT EVENTS IN MECCA COULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS. MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT CONCLUSIONS WERE DRAWN AFTER TAKEOVER OF GRAND MOSQUE HAD BEEN INVESTIGATED. HE SAID, IT SEEMED QUITE CLEAR THAT IT WAS AN INTERNAL SAUDI AFFAIR (HE SAID NO RESPONSIBLE PERSON IN KUWAIT LENDS CREDENCE TO ACCUSATIONS THAT U.S. SOMEHOW IMPLICATED). WHILE FORTUNATELY, IT APPEARS THAT PERPETRATORS OF ACT WERE NOT SHIA, WHICH WOULD HAVE MADE MATTERS WORSE, IT DID SEEM TO INDICATE

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THERE IS GROWING ELEMENT IN SAUDI BODY POLITIC PREPARED TO USE RELIGIOUS AVENUE ACHIEVE REFORMS. SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY'S STRENGTH HISTORICALLY HAD LAIN WITH ITS POLITICAL ASSOCIATION WITH FUNDAMENTALIST AND CONSERVATIVE WAHHABI SECT. HOWEVER, THIS SUPPORT COULD BE ERODING IN LIGHT OF DISSATISFACTION AMONG MANY SAUDIS AT ROYAL FAMILY HIGH LIVING AND PRIVILEGES WHICH ANTI-THESIS OF FUNDAMENTAL ISLAMIC PRECEPT.

9. COMMENT: REPORTING THESE VIEWS IN SOME DETAIL SINCE SIMILAR THOUGHTS MAY EMERGE DURING SECRETARY MILLER'S VISIT TO KUWAIT. EVENTS OF PAST THREE WEEKS HAVE MADE KUWAITIS PARTICULARLY GUN-SHY AND UNCERTAIN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT EVENTS. SEIZURE OF MECCA GRAND MOSQUE IS CLEARLY ISSUE OF GREATEST CONCERN FOR GOK AT MOMENT, AS IT

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SEEKS TO THINK THROUGH HOW THIS EVENT FITS IN FOR
KUWAIT'S FUTURE POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SECURITY.
DICKMAN

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CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 LONDON 23316 251651Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 DRC-01 PA-01 SS-15 SSO-00
NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-10 INRE-00 /053 W
-----003896 251700Z /51/42

O 241538Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5185

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 23316

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - MRN SHOULD READ 23316 VICE 23309

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/24/85 (GLASPIE, A) OR-P
TAGS: PEPR, PK, US
SUBJECT: (U) ISLAMABAD: RADIO BROADCASTS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE FCO SOUTH ASIAN DEPARTMENT HAS INVITED OUR ATTENTION TO A PARAGRAPH IN A LONDON TIMES STORY DATE-LINED WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 21, CONCERNING PROVOCATIVE BROADCASTS HEARD IN PAKISTAN. THE RELEVANT QUOTATION IS: "THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THERE WERE REPORTS THAT RADIO BROADCASTS, ALLEGING THAT AMERICANS WERE INVOLVED IN THE OCCUPATION OF THE GREAT MOSQUE IN MECCA, THE MUSLIM HOLY CITY IN SAUDI ARABIA, HAD BEEN HEARD IN PAKISTAN. HE DID NOT SAY WHERE THOSE BROADCASTS CAME FROM BUT THE IMPLICATION IS THAT THEY CAME FROM RUSSIA."

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THE FCO WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF WE COULD CLARIFY EXACTLY WHICH NATIONAL RADIOS HODDING CARTER WAS REFERRING TO. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT REFERENCE WAS SIMPLY TO KHOMEINI'S STATEMENT, BUT FCO ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF WE HAD MONITORED A PROVOCATIVE SOVIET STATEMENT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING REPLY BY OPENING
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LONDON 23316 251651Z

OF BUSINESS IN LONDON ON MONDAY. BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUN 2006 200505106

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PAGE 01 STATE 305391
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-10 EUR-12 SIG-03
MMO-01 AIT-02 SSM-03 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 SYE-00 MCT-02 AID-05
CA-01 USSS-00 HA-05 OC-06 CCO-00 ANAE-00 /125 R

DRAFTED BY IWG:ASENS:PGA
APPROVED BY IWG:ASENS
S/S-O:WSBUTCHER

-----003206 251237Z /11

O 251137Z NOV 79
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII IMMEDIATE 4962
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6117
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
COMIDEASTFOR ATHENS IMMEDIATE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON IMMEDIATE
UNSMR SHAPE BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
XMT AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

S E C R E T STATE 305391

INFORM CONSULS, MILLER PARTY FOR MARSHA JOHNSON-EVANS

E.O. 11652: GDS 11/25/85 (SENS, ANDREW)

TAGS: PINS, PEPR, IR
FOR POLAD
SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 46, SITUATION IN IRAN AS OF 0530 EST,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 305391

NOVEMBER 25, 1979

(S-ENTIRE TEXT)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUN 2006 200505106

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1. U.S. CONGRESSMAN GEORGE HANSEN WAS ALLOWED TO ENTER THE OCCUPIED AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TEHRAN TODAY TO SEE THE 49 AMERICAN HOSTAGES HELD THERE SINCE NOVEMBER 4. A STUDENT TOLD REUTERS BY TELEPHONE THAT THE REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVE FROM IDAHO HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO ENTER THE COMPOUND ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS, INCLUDING A CONDEMNATION OF THE OUSTED SHAH OF IRAN AS A CRIMINAL. HE ADDED THAT THE STUDENTS HAD DECIDED TO LET MR. HANSEN SEE THE HOSTAGES AS HE WAS IN TEHRAN AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN, NOT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. HANSEN SAID AFTERWARDS THAT THE HOSTAGES ARE ALL PHYSICALLY WELL, BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES AND ANXIOUS TO BE RELEASED.

2. THE STUDENTS OCCUPYING THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHRAN SAID THIS MORNING THAT IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY LEADER AYATOLLAH RUHOLLAH KHOMEINI WOULD PERSONALLY SET THE DATE FOR THE PLANNED ESPIONAGE TRIAL OF THEIR AMERICAN HOSTAGES. A STUDENT LEADER TOLD REUTERS BY TELEPHONE FROM THE EMBASSY THAT THE HOSTAGES WOULD BE TRIED BUT NO DATE HAD BEEN FIXED. "THE IMAM HIMSELF WILL DECIDE ON THE DATE," HE SAID, ADDING THAT EVENTS SINCE THE SEIZURE OF THE EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 4 HAD MOVED SO FAST THAT THE STUDENTS HAD HAD NO TIME TO DISCUSS THE DATE AND VENUE OF THE PLANNED TRIAL.

3. WE HAVE A REPORT ON THE EC NINE AMBASSADORS' NOVEMBER 24 DEMARCHE TO BANI-SADR. THE AMBASSADORS STRESSED THEIR ANXIETY ABOUT THE HOSTAGES' WELL BEING AND PRESSED BOTH
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FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS AND FOR DAILY VISITS, PREFERABLY BY AMBASSADORS. THEY ALSO ARGUED THAT ANY TRIAL OF THE HOSTAGES WOULD CONSTITUTE A FURTHER TRANSGRESSION AGAINST INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WOULD SERIOUSLY COMPROMISE ATTEMPTS TO REACH A SOLUTION TO THE HOSTAGE ISSUE. BANI-SADR REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE BOTH IMPROVED ACCESS TO AND BETTER CONDITIONS FOR THE HOSTAGES.

4. AYATOLLAH MONTAZERI IN AN INTERVIEW WITH PARS NEWS AGENCY, NOVEMBER 25, ADMITTED THAT HIS DEROGATORY REMARKS (SITREP NO. 45) ABOUT KURDISH LEADERS DURING FRIDAY PRAYERS IN TEHRAN DID NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. "MY WORDS" HE SAID "EXPRESSED ONLY MY OWN VIEW."

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5. A CANADIAN TELEVISION NEWS CREW ALLOWED INTO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHRAN SAID NOVEMBER 24 THE SITUATION APPEARED CALM AND ORDERLY BUT THAT THEY WERE NOT PERMITTED TO SEE ANY OF THE 49 AMERICAN HOSTAGES HELD THERE.

6. THE STUDENTS AT THE EMBASSY HAVE BROADCAST STATEMENT NO. 49 DECLARING THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 26 TO BE A PERIOD OF MOURNING FOR THOSE KILLED IN THE RECENT SEIZURE OF MECCA'S GREAT MOSQUE. THEIR STATEMENT BLAMES THE U.S. FOR WHAT HAPPENED AND SPECIFICALLY CALLS FOR "ALL THE MUSLIMS OF THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE OPPRESSED NATIONS OF THE EAST, TO COMMEMORATE THE BLOOD SHED IN THIS INCIDENT...BY ATTACKING AMERICA...UNDER THE FLAGS OF MARTYRDOM AND REVOLUTION."
CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 01 STATE 305391
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /011 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:NEA:MGROSSMAN

APPROVED BY:NEA:MGROSSMAN

-----004987 260035Z /15

O 260010Z NOV 79

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 305391

PASS RIYADH/USLO FOR SECRET SERVICE

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 305391 ACTION ALL DIPLOMATIC AND
CONSULAR POSTS CINCPAC SECDEF USCINCEUR COMIDEASTFOR
CINCUSAFE CINCUSNAVEUR USNMR SHAPE USDOC 25 NOV

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 305391

IMFORM CONSULS, MILLER PARTY FOR MARSHA JOHNSON-EVANS

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E.O. 11652: GDS 11/25/85 (SENS, ANDREW)

TAGS: PINS, PEPR, IR
FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 46, SITUATION IN IRAN AS OF 0530 EST,
NOVEMBER 25, 1979

(S-ENTIRE TEXT)

1. U.S. CONGRESSMAN GEORGE HANSEN WAS ALLOWED TO ENTER
THE OCCUPIED AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TEHRAN TODAY TO SEE THE
49 AMERICAN HOSTAGES HELD THERE SINCE NOVEMBER 4. A
STUDENT TOLD REUTERS BY TELEPHONE THA REPUBLICAN
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PAGE 02 STATE 305391

REPRESENTATIVE FROM IDAHO HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO ENTER
THE COMPOUND ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS, INCLUDING A CONDEM-
NATION OF THE OUSTED SHAH OF IRAN AS A CRIMINAL. HE
ADDED THAT THE STUDENTS HAD DECIDED TO LET MR. HANSEN
SEE T E HOSTAGES AS HE WAS IN TEHRAN AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN,
NOT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. HANSEN
SAID AFTERWARDS THAT THE HOSTAGES ARE ALL PHYSICALLY
WELL, BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES AND
ANXIOUS TO BE RELEASED.

2. THE STUDENTS OCCUPYING THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHRAN
SAID THIS MORNING THAT IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY LEADER
AYATOLLAH RUHOLLAH KHOMEINI WOULD PERSONALLY SET THE
DATE FOR THE PLANNED ESPIONAGE TRIAL OF THEIR AMERICAN
HOSTAGES. A STUDENT LEADER TOLD REUTERS BY TELEPHONE
FROM THE EMBASSY THAT THE HOSTAGES WOULD BE TRIED BUT NO
DATE HAD BEEN FIXED. "THE IMAM HIMSELF WILL DECIDE ON
THE DATE," HE SAID, ADDING THAT EVENTS SINCE THE SEIZURE
OF THE EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 4 HAD MOVED SO FAST THAT THE
STUDENTS HAD HAD NO TIME TO DISCUSS THE DATE AND VENUE
OF THE PLANNED TRIAL.

3. WE HAVE A REPORT ON THE EC NINE AMBASSADORS' NOVEMBER
24 DEMARCHE TO BANI-SADR. THE AMBASSADORS STRESSED THEIR
ANXIETY ABOUT THE HOSTAGES' WELL BEING AND PRESSED BOTH
FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS AND FOR DAILY VISITS,
PREFERABLY BY AMBASSADORS. THEY ALSO ARGUED THAT ANY
TRIAL OF THE HOSTAGES WOULD CONSTITUTE A FURTHER
TRANSGRESSION AGAINST INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WOULD
SERIOUSLY COMPROMISE ATTEMPTS TO REACH A SOLUTION TO THE

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HOSTAGE ISSUE. BANI-SADR REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE BOTH IMPROVED ACCESS TO AND BETTER CONDITIONS FOR THE HOSTAGES.

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PAGE 03 STATE 305391

4. AYATOLLAH MONTAZERI IN AN INTERVIEW WITH PARS NEWS AGENCY, NOVEMBER 25, ADMITTED THAT HIS DEROGATORY REMARKS (SITREP NO. 45) ABOUT KURDISH LEADERS DURING FRIDAY PRAYERS IN TEHRAN DID NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. "MY WORDS" HE SAID "EXPRESSED ONLY MY OWN VIEW."

5. A CANADIAN TELEVISION NEWS CREW ALLOWED INTO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHRAN SAID NOVEMBER 24 THE SITUATION APPEARED CALM AND ORDERLY BUT THAT THEY WERE NOT PERMITTED TO SEE ANY OF THE 49 AMERICAN HOSTAGES HELD THERE.

6. THE STUDENTS AT THE EMBASSY HAVE BROADCAST STATEMENT NO. 49 DECLARING THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 26 TO BE A PERIOD OF MOURNING FOR THOSE KILLED IN THE RECENT SEIZURE OF MECCA'S GREAT MOSQUE. THEIR STATEMENT BLAMES THE U.S. FOR WHAT HAPPENED AND SPECIFICALLY CALLS FOR "ALL THE MUSLIMS OF THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE OPPRESSED NATIONS OF THE EAST, TO COMMEMORATE THE BLOOD SHED IN THIS INCIDENT...BY ATTACKING AMERICA...UNDER THE FLAGS OF MARTYRDOM AND REVOLUTION." CHRISTOPHER UNQUOTE VANCE

ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION: NEA/REBU,IO,AIT,SSM,SS,SSO,CCO,SY,SYE,MCT,A,OPR,TRSE,NSCE,INR,PA,SIG,MMO,,

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PAGE 01 STATE 305391
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APPROVED BY:NEA/IWG:MJOHNSON
S/S-O:JBECKER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 305391

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 305301 ACTION ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR
POSTS CINCPAC SECDEF USCINCEUR COMIDEASTFOR CINCUSAFE CINCUSNAVEUR
USNMR SHAPE USDOC NOV 25. REPEATED JIDDA NOV 26.

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 305391

IMFORM CONSULS, MILLER PARTY FOR MARSHA JOHNSON-EVANS

E.O. 11652: GDS 11/25/85 (SENS, ANDREW)

TAGS: PINS, PEPR, IR
FOR POLAD
SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 46, SITUATION IN IRAN AS OF 0530 EST,
NOVEMBER 25, 1979

(S-ENTIRE TEXT)

1. U.S. CONGRESSMAN GEORGE HANSEN WAS ALLOWED TO ENTER
THE OCCUPIED AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TEHRAN TODAY TO SEE THE
49 AMERICAN HOSTAGES HELD THERE SINCE NOVEMBER 4. A
STUDENT TOLD REUTERS BY TELEPHONE THA REPUBLICAN
REPRESENTATIVE FROM IDAHO HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO ENTER
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PAGE 02 STATE 305391

THE COMPOUND ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS, INCLUDING A CONDEM-
NATION OF THE OUSTED SHAH OF IRAN AS A CRIMINAL. HE
ADDED THAT THE STUDENTS HAD DECIDED TO LET MR. HANSEN
SEE T E HOSTAGES AS HE WAS IN TEHRAN AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN,
NOT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. HANSEN
SAID AFTERWARDS THAT THE HOSTAGES ARE ALL PHYSICALLY
WELL, BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES AND
ANXIOUS TO BE RELEASED.

2. THE STUDENTS OCCUPYING THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHRAN
SAID THIS MORNING THAT IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY LEADER

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AYATOLLAH RUHOLLAH KHOMEINI WOULD PERSONALLY SET THE DATE FOR THE PLANNED ESPIONAGE TRIAL OF THEIR AMERICAN HOSTAGES. A STUDENT LEADER TOLD REUTERS BY TELEPHONE FROM THE EMBASSY THAT THE HOSTAGES WOULD BE TRIED BUT NO DATE HAD BEEN FIXED. "THE IMAM HIMSELF WILL DECIDE ON THE DATE," HE SAID, ADDING THAT EVENTS SINCE THE SEIZURE OF THE EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 4 HAD MOVED SO FAST THAT THE STUDENTS HAD HAD NO TIME TO DISCUSS THE DATE AND VENUE OF THE PLANNED TRIAL.

3. WE HAVE A REPORT ON THE EC NINE AMBASSADORS' NOVEMBER 24 DEMARCHE TO BANI-SADR. THE AMBASSADORS STRESSED THEIR ANXIETY ABOUT THE HOSTAGES' WELL BEING AND PRESSED BOTH FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS AND FOR DAILY VISITS, PREFERABLY BY AMBASSADORS. THEY ALSO ARGUED THAT ANY TRIAL OF THE HOSTAGES WOULD CONSTITUTE A FURTHER TRANSGRESSION AGAINST INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WOULD SERIOUSLY COMPROMISE ATTEMPTS TO REACH A SOLUTION TO THE HOSTAGE ISSUE. BANI-SADR REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE BOTH IMPROVED ACCESS TO AND BETTER CONDITIONS FOR THE HOSTAGES.

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PAGE 03 STATE 305391

4. AYATOLLAH MONTAZERI IN AN INTERVIEW WITH PARS NEWS AGENCY, NOVEMBER 25, ADMITTED THAT HIS DEROGATORY REMARKS (SITREP NO. 45) ABOUT KURDISH LEADERS DURING FRIDAY PRAYERS IN TEHRAN DID NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. "MY WORDS" HE SAID "EXPRESSED ONLY MY OWN VIEW."

5. A CANADIAN TELEVISION NEWS CREW ALLOWED INTO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHRAN SAID NOVEMBER 24 THE SITUATION APPEARED CALM AND ORDERLY BUT THAT THEY WERE NOT PERMITTED TO SEE ANY OF THE 49 AMERICAN HOSTAGES HELD THERE.

6. THE STUDENTS AT THE EMBASSY HAVE BROADCAST STATEMENT NO. 49 DECLARING THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 26 TO BE A PERIOD OF MOURNING FOR THOSE KILLED IN THE RECENT SEIZURE OF MECCA'S GREAT MOSQUE. THEIR STATEMENT BLAMES THE U.S. FOR WHAT HAPPENED AND SPECIFICALLY CALLS FOR "ALL THE MUSLIMS OF THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE OPPRESSED NATIONS OF THE EAST, TO COMMEMORATE THE BLOOD SHED IN THIS INCIDENT...BY ATTACKING AMERICA...UNDER THE FLAGS OF MARTYRDOM AND REVOLUTION. CHRISTOPHER UNQUOTE VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 305406
ORIGIN SY-05

INFO OCT-00 SYE-00 IO-14 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-06 ADS-00 SIG-03 MMO-01 AIT-02 SSM-03 SS-15
SSO-00 CCO-00 MCT-02 A-02 OPR-02 TRSE-00 INR-10
PA-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 /109 R

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APPROVED BY SY/CC - BOWMAN H. MILLER
IWG - M. DRAPER
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O 251956Z NOV 79
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 305406

INFORM CONSULS, POSTS FOR RSOS, PSOS, AND RSS'S

E.O. 12065GDS 11/25/85 (79 STATE 305391)

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, IR

SUBJECT: (U) INCREASED SECURITY AWARENESS ON NOVEMBER 26

REF: STATE 305391

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. YOUR ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO PARAGRAPH 6 OF REFTTEL WHICH STATES: BEGIN QUOTE. THE STUDENTS AT THE EMBASSY (IN TEHRAN) HAVE BROADCAST STATEMENT NO. 49 DECLARING THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 26 TO BE A PERIOD OF MOURNING FOR THOSE KILLED IN THE RECENT SEIZURE OF MECCA'S GREAT MOSQUE. THEIR STATEMENT BLAMES THE U.S. FOR WHAT
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PAGE 02 STATE 305406

HAPPENED AND SPECIFICALLY CALLS FOR "ALL THE MUSLIMS OF THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE OPPRESSED NATIONS OF THE EAST, TO COMMEMORATE THE BLOOD SHED IN THIS INCIDENT... BY ATTACKING AMERICA...UNDER THE FLAGS OF MARTYRDOM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUN 2006 200505106

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AND "REVOLUTION." END QUOTE. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 305406
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AIT-02 SY-05 SYE-00 /019 R

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APPROVED BY EA/RA/TC:MZINOMAN
AIT:DDEAN
SY/CC/TAC:DAPULCHIN

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O 270515Z NOV 79
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AIT TAIPEI IMMEDIATE 2237

S E C R E T STATE 305406

FROM AIT WASHDC

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 305406 ACTION ALL DIP AND CONSULAR
POSTS NOV 25

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 305406

INFORM CONSULS, POSTS FOR RSOS, PSOS, AND RSS'S

E.O. 12065GDS 11/25/85 (79 STATE 305391)

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, IR

SUBJECT: (U) INCREASED SECURITY AWARENESS ON NOVEMBER 26

REF: STATE 305391

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. YOUR ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO PARAGRAPH 6 OF REFTEL
WHICH STATES: BEGIN QUOTE. THE STUDENTS AT THE EMBASSY

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PAGE 02 STATE 305406

(IN TEHRAN) HAVE BROADCAST STATEMENT NO. 49 DECLARING THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 26 TO BE A PERIOD OF MOURNING FOR THOSE KILLED IN THE RECENT SEIZURE OF MECCA'S GREAT MOSQUE. THEIR STATEMENT BLAMES THE U.S. FOR WHAT HAPPENED AND SPECIFICALLY CALLS FOR "ALL THE MUSLIMS OF THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE OPPRESSED NATIONS OF THE EAST, TO COMMEMORATE THE BLOOD SHED IN THIS INCIDENT... BY ATTACKING AMERICA...UNDER THE FLAGS OF MARTYRDOM AND REVOLUTION." END QUOTE. VANCE UNQUOTE SIGNED DEAN VANCE

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08119 01 OF 02 251619Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 A-02 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 SYE-00
MCT-02 HA-05 SES-01 SSN-02 /075 W
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O 251515Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8062
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEEMBASSY MANAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 8119

USLO FOR AMBASSADOR AND POL COUNSELOR

DEPT PASS TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

REF: JIDDA 8095 DTG 241830Z NOV 79

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: IN A REITERATION OF THEIR NOV 24
REPORT (REFTEL), AMERICAN PILOTS FLYING SAUDI CIVIL
DEFENSE HELICOPTERS ON CONTRACT TOLD POLOFF THAT FROM
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 08119 01 OF 02 251619Z

THEIR OBSERVATIONS AT GRAND MOSQUE AND VICINITY
MORNING OF NOV 25, MOSQUE HAS NOW BEEN SECURED BUT
SAG IS CONTINUING TO COMB MECCA AREA FOR ISLAMIC
DISSIDENTS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE ESCAPED THE FINAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUN 2006 200505106

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ASSAULT. DAO CONTACTS IN RIYADH, MEANWHILE, SUGGEST THERE MIGHT STILL BE SOME DISSIDENTS HOLDING OUT IN THE WARREN-LIKE BASEMENT, DESPITE EARLIER ASSERTIONS THAT UNDERGROUND PASSAGES HAVE BEEN CLEARED. SECURITY AT IMPORTANT INSTALLATIONS AND BUILDINGS IN RIYADH, JIDDA, TAIF AND MEDINA (INCLUDING THIS EMBASSY) REMAINS VERY TIGHT. THUS FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SAG THAT (A) A FINAL ASSAULT DID IN FACT TAKE PLACE NOV 24, OR (B) THAT SECURITY FORCES STILL PURSUING SOME OF THE DISSIDENTS WHO ARE FEARED TO HAVE ESCAPED IN CHAOS OF ATTACK. MOST PAPERS FOLLOWING GOVT LEAD EXCEPT AL-NADWA WHICH REPORTED MOSQUE RETAKEN NOV 24 AND PUBLISHED PHOTOS OF SOME OF DAMAGE. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT SAG IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO RECALL OUTSTANDING COPIES OF THIS NEWSPAPER. SMALL FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN UKAZ ALSO REPORTS MOSQUE'S RECAPTURE. END SUMMARY.

3. IN NOV 25 DEBRIEFING, AMERICAN PILOTS (STRICTLY PROTECT) FLYING SAUDI CIVIL DEFENSE HELICOPTERS ON CONTRACT TOLD POLOFF THAT THEY HOVERED IN VICINITY OF GRAND MOSQUE FOR 45 MINUTES BEGINNING 0700 GMT. MOSQUE GAVE EVERY APPEARANCE OF BEING UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL OF SAUDI FORCES (APPARENTLY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN). BETWEEN 50-60 SAUDI SOLDIERS WERE MILLING AROUND OR SITTING ALONG ONE SIDE OF COURTYARD. ANOTHER 75 OR SO WERE ON ROOF. ATMOSPHERE WAS EERIE BUT QUITE RELAXED. EXCEPT FOR SOME SMOKE NEAR

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NORTH SIDE OF MOSQUE, FIRES NOTED REFTEL EXTINGUISHED. DAMAGE TO BUILDING ITSELF CONSIDERABLE. MAJORITY OF WINDOWS OVERLOOKING COURTYARD HAVE BEEN SMASHED, AND SEVERAL OF LARGE GATES HAVE BEEN BROKEN OPEN. FIVE OF SEVEN MINARETS HAVE SUFFERED FROM LIGHT SHELLING, AS WELL. IN STREETS IMMEDIATELY AROUND MOSQUE, PILOTS SAID THEY SAW RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF BOTH TRACKED (APCS) AND WHEELED VEHICLES (APPARENTLY V-150S). ALL WERE STATIONARY. SMALL NUMBERS OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE CIVILIAN ONLOOKERS WERE MOVING IN STREET SURROUNDING VICINITY OF MECCA. PILOTS SAID THAT NO SUSPICIOUS GROUPS OF PEOPLE WERE SIGHTED. AS NOTED REFTEL, SAUDI SOLDIERS APPEAR TO BE EVERYWHERE. MEANWHILE, SECURITY AT IMPORTANT INSTALLATIONS AND BUILDINGS IN JIDDA, RIYADH,

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TAIF, AND MEDINA CONTINUES TO BE VERY TIGHT. IN JIDDA, FOREXAMPLE, THIS EMBASSY, THE AIRPORT, AND THE OIL REFINERY ARE AMONG NUMEROUS PLACES BEING VERY CLOSELY GUARDED.

6. THUS FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL WORD FROM SAG THAT A) A FINAL VIOLENT ASSAULT DID IN FACT TAKE PLACE NOV 24, OR THAT B) SECURITY FORCES ARE STILL APPARENTLY PURSUING SOME OF DISSIDENTS WHO ARE FEARED TO HAVE ESCAPED IN CHAOS OF ATTACK. AL-RIYADH NEWS-PAPER TODAY PUBLISHED TEXT OF NOV 24 FATWA WHICH, IN PART, CALLS UPON GOVT TO USE ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO REGAIN CONTROL OF MOSQUE IF THE "RENEGADES" DO NOT SURRENDER. ALL PAPERS GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF THE MOSQUE SEIZURE, AND AT LEAST THREE (AL-NADWA AND BOTH ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS) REPORTED SECTY VANCE'S STATEMENT ON SUBJECT. SPECIAL COUNSELOR SABBAGH ALSO CONVEYED STATEMENT DIRECTLY TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD.

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 A-02 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 SYE-00
MCT-02 HA-05 SES-01 SSN-02 /075 W
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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8063
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
DIA WAAHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEEMBASSY MANAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 JIDDA 8119

USLO FOR AMBASSADOR AND POL COUNS

DEPT PASS TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

7. THE ONE PAPER OUT IN FRONT IN ITS REPORTING IS AL-NADWA WHICH, IN A BOLD HEADLINE DECLARED IN NOV 25 ISSUE THAT MOSQUE WAS RETAKEN NOV 24 AND THAT GOVERNMENT NOW TAKING STEPS TO CLEAN UP THE DAMAGE AND REOPEN THE MOSQUE TO WORSHIPPERS. MOST EXTRAORDINARY OF ALL, AL-NADWA PUBLISHED SEVEN PHOTOS OF MOSQUE APPARENTLY TAKEN NOV 24 WHICH SHOW DAMAGE TO MINARETS AND SMOKE RISING FROM WITHIN THE BUILDING. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED
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UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT SAG IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO RECALL ALL OUTSTANDING COPIES OF THIS NEWSPAPER. UKAZ NEWSPAPER, WHICH WAS NOT DELIVERED UNTIL AFTERNOON NOV 25, ALSO CONTAINS SMALLER FRONT PAGE ARTICLE (NO PICTURES) WHICH ALSO REPORTS MOSQUE RETAKEN NOV 24.

8. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY, SAG IS WITHHOLDING FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE RECOVERY OF THE MOSQUE UNTIL IT IS CERTAIN ALL THE DISSIDENTS HAVE BEEN KILLED OR CAPTURED. THIS MAY NEVER BE POSSIBLE, BUT SAG WILL, AT A MINIMUM, WANT TO BE CERTAIN THAT NONE REMAIN HIDDEN IN THE VAST NETWORK OF TUNNELS UNDERLYING THE MOSQUE.
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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08180 271633Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SY-05 SYE-00 A-02 OPR-02 OC-06
CCO-00 MCT-02 HA-05 SES-01 SSN-02 CIAE-00 PM-06
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /075 W
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O 271633Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8083
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCHAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 8180

DEPT PASS TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/27/85 (PLACKE JANES A) OR-M
TAGS: PINS ASEC SA
SUBJ : (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE:
SITUATION AS OF 1300 GMT

REF: (-) FBIS LD261932, (B) JIDDA 8119

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 08180 271633Z

2. SUMMARY: GUNEN OCCUPYING GRAND MOSQUE NOW CONFIRMED
TO PART OF BUILDING'S BASEMENT. SAG SEEMS INTENT TO
TAKE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE ALIVE. SAUDIS ARE MOVING TO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUN 2006 200505106

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ASSERT THEIR COMAND OF SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

3. STATEMENT BY INFORMATION MINISTER YAMANI (SEE REF A) HAS STATED THAT ALMOST ALL OF GRAND MOSQUE HAS BEEN RETAKEN. SMALL GROUP OF GUNMEN IS STILL HOLDING OUT IN PART OF BASEMENT AREA OF MOSQUE, WHICH, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED, IS HONEYCOMBED WITH ROOMS AND TUNNELS.

4. DAO SOURCES CONFIRM THAT SOME DISSIDENTS CONTINUE HOLD OUT IN MOSQUE BASEMENT AREA. EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATE THAT SAUDIS FEEL THERE IS POSSIBILITY SOME GUNMEN MAY HAVE ESCAPED.

5. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MODA) HAS TOLD USMTM THAT 60 TO 70 PEOPLE MAY REMAIN IN BASEMENT AREA, INCLUDING UNKNOWN NUMBER OF HOSTAGES. MODA HAS ASKED FOR US ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING TEAR GAS AND/OR SMOKE EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN CATACOMB-LIKE AREA UNDER MOSQUE. (EMBASSY COMMENT: YAMANI STATEMENT AND OTHER REPORTS INDICATE SUADIS NO LONGER FEEL ALL-OUT ASSAULT TO END SEIGE IS WARRANTED. DESIRE TO AVOID FURTHER CASUALTIES AMONG HOSTAGES AND TROOPS IS DOUBTLESSLY A REASON FOR THIS. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT SAUDIS WANT TO CAPTURE ALIVE AS MANY OF REMAINING DISSIDENTS AS POSSIBLE. PRISONERS ARE WANTED FOR INTERROGATION, ESPECIALLY IF SAUDIS BELIEVE ANY OF GROUP'S LEADERS ARE AMONG HOLDOUTS. IN ADDITION, SAUDIS WANT MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GUNMEN TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE ISLAMIC COURTS AND RECEIVE PUBLIC PUNISH-
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PAGE 03 JIDDA 08180 271633Z

MENT, I.E. BEHEADING, PROMISED IN FATWA ISSUED BY ULIMA. END COMMENT.)

6. YAMANI STATEMENT ALSO DEFENDED GOVTS MEDIA TREATMENT OF OCCUPATION. ABSENCE OF DAILY STATEMENTS TO PRESS WAS EXPLAINED AS STEMMING FROM DESIRE TO RELEASE ONLY FACTS AND AVOID EXCITING PUBLIC UNNECESSARILY. UNITY OF ROYAL FAMILY IN FACE OF CRISIS WAS STRESSED. YAMANI ALSO NOTED THAT KING KHALID DID NOT ORDER ASSAULT UNTIL RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP (ULIMA) HAD ISSUED LEGAL OPINION (FATWA) DECLARING IT WAS LEGAL TO STORM MOSQUE AND PROMISING SEVERE PUNISHMENT TO ITS VIOLATORS.

7. SAUDIS ALSO MAKING EFFORT TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF BUSINESS AS USUAL. VISIT OF SECTY MILLER,

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ACCOMPANIED BY CODEL, TOOK PLACE AS PLANNED. IT RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE BY SAUDI MEDIA, AS DID NOT 26 VISIT BY RULERS OF KUWAIT AND BAHRAIN (A DEMONSTRATION OF GULF ARAB SOLIDARITY), THAT OF BRITISH SECTY OF STATE FOR TRADE, AND BRAZILLIAN MINISTER OF PLANNING.

A8. SECURITY REMAINS VERY TIGHT AT OIL REFINERY NEAR JIDDA, AS WELL AS AT AIRPORT. SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR BAGGAGE HANDLING ARE IN EFFECT AT LATTER.

9. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT UKAZ EDITOR SHUBUKSHI, WHO CRITICIZED EARLY US STATEMENT ON MOSQUE OCCUPATION IN ARTICLE PUBLISHED YESTERDAY, HAS BEEN REPRIMANDED BY SAUDI GOVT, APPARENTLY FOR GOING BEYOND CURRENT PRESS GUIDANCE.

10. AS REPORTED BY BBC NOV 27, OBSCURE ORGANIZATION CALLING ITSELF "UNION OF SONS OF ARABIAN PENINSULA" (USAP) HAS CLAIMED, FROM BEIRUT, THAT IT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTACK ON GRAND MOSQUE. EMBASSY HAS NO INFO WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIATE THIS CLAIM. FROM WHAT IS KNOWN SO FAR ABOUT THOSE WHO SEIZED MOSQUE, USAP, WITH ITS
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PAGE 04 JIDDA 08180 271633Z

KNOWN LEFTIST AND BAATHI CONNECTIONS, IS UNLIKELY BEDFELLOW OF ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO BE BEHIND MECCA INCIDENT.

11. EMBASSY COMMENT: NOW THAT IMMEDIATE CRISIS OF MOSQUE OCCUPATION IS ESSENTIALLY OVER WITH REMANANTS OF GUNMEN TRAPPED OUT OF SIGHT IN BUILDINGS'S CELLARS, SAG WILL MOVE TO UNCOVER AND ROUND UP ANY PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS GROUP THAT ARE STILL AT LARGE. IN ADDITION, SAUDI INTERNAL SECURITY EFFORTS IN GENERAL ARE LIKELY TO BE GREATLY INCREASED. AS NOTED ABOVE, SAG IS PRESENTING IMAGE OF UNITY AND BUSINESS AS USUAL, AS WELL AS PUBLICISING UNIVERSAL CONDEMNATION OF MOSQUE SEIZURE. TRIALS OF DISSIDENTS WILL PROBABLY BEGIN SOON AFTER LAST GROUP IS CAPTURED. THESE TRIALS, AS WELL AS REQUEST FOR FATWA BEFORE ORDERING ASSAULT ON UPPER

STORIES OF MOSQUE, INDICATE THAT SAG REMAINS VERY SENSITIVE TO RELIGIOUS ELEMENT OF ITS LEGITIMACY. ATTACK UPON HOLIEST SHRINE OF ISLAM STRIKES AT SAUDI ROLE AS PROTECTOR OF ISLAMIC HOLY PLACES. THIS OCCURS AT A TIME WHEN SAUDIS ARE FACING CHALLENGE FROM KHOMEINI TO SELF-PROCLAIMED ROLE AS CHIEF DEFENDER OF THE

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FAITH. SAG CAN BE EXPECTED TO SEEK FURTHER WAYS TO
REASSERT ITS ISLAMIC LEGITIMACY. WEST

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08219 281628Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 A-02 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00
MCT-02 HA-05 SES-01 SSN-02 SPH-01 ANAE-00 /076 W
-----024124 281635Z /65

O 281546Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8101
INFO /AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE 4020
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 8219

DEPT PASS TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

EO 12065: GDS 11/28/79 (PLACKE, JAMES A) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA
SUBJ: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE: SITUATIONAS OF
1400 GMT NOV 28, 1979

REF: JIDDA 8180 DTG 271633Z NOV 79

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)
 2. SITUATION IN MECCA HAS APPARENTLY NOT CHANGED
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APPRECIABLY OVER LAST 24 HOURS, AND SMALL GROUP OF GUN-
MEN ARE STILL BELIEVED TO BE HOLDING OUT IN THE WARREN-
LIKE BASEMTN OF THE GRAND MOSQUE WITH UNKNOWN NUMBER
OF HOSTAGES. MODA OFFICIALS SAID SEVERAL TIMES NOV 28

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUN 2006 200505106

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THAT LAST OF HOSTAGE BEGINNING TO SURRENDER, BUT NO DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AND THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN AUTHORITATIVELY CONFIRMED BY SAG.

3. USDAO RECEIVED A REPORT THIS MORNING THAT TWELVE INDIVIDUALS (INCLUDING THREE WOMEN) WHO APPARENTLY PARTICIPATED IN SEIZURE OF GRAND MOSQUE WERE SEEN MORNING OF NOV 28 AT THE MILITARY SECTION OF JIDDA AIRPORT. THEY WERE MANACLED AND BEING ASSEMBLED FOR ONWARD TRANSPORT TO RIYADH VIA RSAF C-130. USDAO HAS ALSO LEARNED THAT THE ALLEGED LEADER OF THE GROUP (THE SELF-PROCLAIMED "MAHDI") WHO WAS WOUNDED IN THE SAUDI COUNTER-ATTACK IS NOW BEING TREATED AT KING FAYSAL HOSPITAL IN RIYADH. AS HAS BEEN THE CASE WITH SO MANY REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED OVER THE PAST WEEK, THIS INFO HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED.

4. SECURITY REMAINS VERY TIGHT AT IMPORTANT INSTALLATIONS IN THE KINGDOM, INCLUDING EMBASSY. RUMORS HAVE ABOUNDED OVER PAST WEEK ABOUT ALLEGED SECURITY INCIDENTS IN RIYADH, TAIF, JIDDA, AND MEDINA IN ADDITION TO MECCA, BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY SAG AND, IN GENERAL, SITUATION APPEARS VERY CALM AND ORDERLY. EASTERN PROVINCE OVER PAST FEW DAYS HAS WITNESSED INCIDENTS SOME WITH FATALITIES, BETWEEN POLICE AND SAUDI SHIITES PARTICIPATING IN BARRED PERFORMANCE OF SHIITE SELF-FLAGELLATION RITUALS CUSTOMARY DURING ISLAMIC MONTH OF MUHARRAM (SEE CHAHARAN 1881 1879 NOTAL). ADDITIONALLY, SAG HAS ACCELERATED

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REPATRIATION OF THE SEVERAL THOUSAND IRANIAN PILGRIMS WHO HAVE NOT YET RETURNED HOME TO IRAN FOLLOWING PARTICIPATION IN THE HAJJ. (REPORTED SEPTTEL).

5. SAUDI PRESS CONTINUES TO GIVE WIDE COVERAGE TO THE MECCA EVENTS. DAILY PAPERS CURRENTLY HIGHLIGHTING PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF THE SEIZURE OF THE MOSQUE ON NOV 20, IN ADDITION TO SAUDI EFFORTS TO RETAKE IT DURING THE FOLLOWING DAYS. ONE OF THE SAUDI OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE LATTER ATTEMPT GAVE ONE OF THE FULLEST REPORTS YET ON THE INCIDENT IN THE NOV 28 ISSUES OF SAUDI GAZETTE AND THE ARAB NEWS, DISCLOSING THAT AT ONE POINT THE GUNMEN WERE IN CONTROL OF A LARGE PORTION OF MECCA, INCLUDING HILLS OVERLOOKING THE MOSQUE COMPLEX (REPORTED SEPTTEL).

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6. SEVERAL PROMINENT ARAB LEADERS HAVE ALREADY VISITED RIYADH, ALLEGEDLY TO GIVE MORAL SUPPORT TO KING KHALID AND THE SAG IN THE WAKE OF THIS DISTURBING EPISODE. BAHRAIN'S AMIR, SHAYKH ISA BIN SALMAN AL KHALIFA, WAS THE FIRST TO ARRIVE NOV 26, FOLLOWED A QUARTER OF AN HOUR LATER BY KUWAIT'S RULER, SHAYKH JABIR AL-AHMAD AL-SABAH. BOTH RETURNED HOME LATER IN THE DAY. ONE NOV 27 YASIR ARAFAT, QATARI AMIR KHALIFA BIN HAMAD ATL THANI, AND UAE VICE PRESIDENT AND PREMIER SHAYKH RASHID AL MAKTUM ALSO ARRIVED IN RIYADH. JORDAN'S KING HUSAYN ARRIVED TODAY, AND OTHER AREA LEADERS ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS AS WELL.
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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08217 281455Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SES-01 SSN-02 SY-05 SYE-00 MCT-02
HA-05 CIAE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
SPH-01 /066 W

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O 281415Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8099
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 8217

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/28/85 (BOVIS H. EUGENE) OR-P
TAGS: PINS, ASEC SA
SUBJECT: (U) SAUDI MILITARY SPOKESMAN ON MOSQUE RECAPTURE

REF: JIDDA 8180

1. (U) ON EVENING NOVEMBER 27, LOCAL TIME, MILITARY
SPOKESMAN FOR SAUDI GOVERNMENT GAVE OFFICIAL VERSION
OF OPERATION TO RETAKE GRAND MOSQUE OF MECCA ON
TELEVISION. FOLLOWING ARE PORTIONS OF REPORT PUBLISHED
NOVEMBER 28 IN ENGLISH-LAUGUAGE ARAB NEWS THAT EMBASSY
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FEELS WILL BE OF INTEREST TO DEPARTMENT. SPOKESMAN
WAS SPECIAL FORCES MAJOR MUHAMMAD ZUWAYD AL-NIFAI.

2. (U) BEGIN TEXT: BY TUESDAY NIGHT THE MAJORITY OF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUN 2006 200505106

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(THE RENEGADES) HAD SURRENDERED, THOUGH HEAVY CASUALTIES WERE SUFFERED ON BOTH SIDES - AND AMONG INNOCENT CITIZENS -- THROUGHOUT THE SIEGE.

3. (U) AT ONE POINT THE RENEGADES WERE IN CONTROL OF A LARGE PORTION OF THE CITY, INCLUDING HILLS OVERLOOKING THE MOSQUE COMPLEX. SNIPERS AMONG THE RENEGADES KILLED INNOCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

4. (U) FOUR SEPARATE UNITS OF SAUDI TROOPS -- FROM THE ARMY, THE NATIONAL GUARD, THE SPECIAL FORCES, AND THE SECURITY FORCE -- WERE INVOLVED IN THE SUCCESSFUL DRIVE TO RETAKE THE MOSQUE. ORDERS TO THE TROOPS CAME THROUGH TWO COMMANDS, A POLITICAL COMMAND AND A MILITARY

COMMAND, BOTH LOCATED IN MECCA AND BOTH IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH KING KHALED.

5. (U) ON SATURDAY, SAUDI TROOPS BEGAN USING TEAR GAS AND ASPHIXIATING GAS AGAINST THE RENEGADES AND GRADUALLY FORCED THEM TO DO BATTLE IN AREAS THE ARMED FORCES HAD PICKED, RATHER THAN THE AREAS THEY HAD CHOSEN, THE RENEGADES USED MATTRESSES AND BEDCOVERS TO TRY AND KEEP THE GAS OUT, BUT THEIR RESISTANCE GRADUALLY WEAKENED.

6. (U) MONDAY AND TUESDAY WERE DEVOTED TO ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR THEM OUT, WITH MORE GAS, SHELLING, SNIPING, AND APPEALS TO SURRENDER.

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7. (U) FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SURRENDERED, THE SECURITY FORCES NOW KNOW THE LOCATIONS AND NUMBERS OF THOSE REMAINING INSIDE THE BASEMENT. END TEXT.

8. (C) COMMENT: THIS IS BY FAR THE MOST DETAILED PUBLIC STATEMENT ON MOSQUE OCCUPATION. EMBASSY NOTES WITH INTEREST PARAS 2 AND 3. WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS THAT GUNMEN HAD OCCUPIED HILLS OVERLOOKING MOSQUE, BUT NOT THAT THEY CONTROLLED PARTS OF CITY. APR 3 IS FIRST CONFIRMATION THAT TROOPS OTHER THAN NATIONAL GUARD WERE INVOLVED IN RECAPTURE EFFORT.
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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08277 011503Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 A-02 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00
MCT-02 HA-05 SES-01 SSN-02 SPH-01 ANAE-00 (ADS) W
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O 011434Z DEC 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8133
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
USLO RIYADH PRIORITY
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SA PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 08277

DEPT PASS TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

EO 12065: GDS 12/1/85 (PLACKE, JAMES A.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA
SUBJECT: (U) MECCA UPDATE: SITUATION AS OF 1300 GMT
DECEMBER 1, 1979

REF: JIDDA 8219 DTG 281546Z NOV 79

1. (U) UNKNOWN NUMBER OF GUNMEN AND HOSTAGES STILL REMAIN
IN PART OF THE BASEMENT OF MECCA'S GRAND MOSQUE. SAUDI
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INTERIOR MINISTER, PRINCE NAYIF, STATED ON NOV 30 THAT
SAUDI SECURITY FORCES INTEND TO TAKE THE GUNMEN ALIVE,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH KING KHALID'S INSTRUCTIONS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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2. (C) SPECULATION CONTINUES, HOWEVER, AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE RINGLEADERS OF THE MOSQUE OCCUPATION. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, USDAO RECEIVED ONE REPORT ALLEDGING THAT THE PRINCIPAL LEADER, THE SELF-STYLED "MAHDI" (APPARENTLY ONE MUHAMMAD ABDALLAH AL-QAHTANI), WAS WOUNDED AND IN A RIYADH HOSPITAL. THIS HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED BY SAG, AND RUMORS PERSIST THAT AL-QAHTANI, ALONG WITH THE OTHER SUPPOSED RINGLEADER, ONE JUHAYMAN BIN SAYF AL-UTAYBI, ARE BOTH EITHER IN THE BASEMENT OF THE MOSQUE OR HAVE ESCAPED. DEPFONMIN AL-THUNAYAN TOLD AMB AND POLCOUNS NOV. 30 THAT BOTH LEADTILL IN MOSQUE BASEMENT.

3. (C) THERE ARE STILL NO ACCURATE FIGURES AS TO CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM THE MOSQUE EPISODE. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT THE MODA MILITARY HOSPITAL IN RIYADH CURRENTLY HAS APPROXIMATELY 100 WOUNDED IN ITS CARE AND HAS BEEN ALERTED TO BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE UP TO 40 MORE. WOUNDED ARE BELIEVED TO BE FROM NATIONAL GUARD IN ADDITION TO REGULAR ARMY FORCES.

4. (LOU) MEANWHILE, THE CLEANUP AND REPAIR OF THE GRAND MOSQUE, BEGUN NOV. 27, CONTINUES AND SAUDI TELEVISION HAS SHOWN PICTURES OF SECURITY FORCES PRAYING AT THE MOSQUE. ACCORDING TO RESIDENTS, THE ROAD TO MECCA IS NOW OPEN, ALTHOUGH VEHICLES ARE RIGOROUSLY SEARCHED. TRAFFIC IS ONCE AGAIN CIRCULATING IN MOST OF THE STREETS OF THE CITY, ALTHOUGH THE AREA AROUND THE GRAND MOSQUE IS STILL SEALED OFF. SECURITY IN JIDDA, RIYADH, AND OTHER CITIES OF THE KINGDOM REMAINS TIGHT.

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5. (U) SAUDI MEDIA CONTINUE TO GIVE WIDE COVERAGE TO THE MECCA EVENTS. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARAB NEWS PUBLISHED WEEK-END EDITION FOR SECOND WEEK IN A ROW NOV. 30 WHICH WAS PRINCIPALLY DEVOTED TO COVERAGE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE SEIZURE. FOCUS OF LOCAL REPORTING IS ON EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THE EPISODE IN ADDITION TO ARTICLES DETAILING DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL OUTRAGE AT THE OCCUPATION. OTHER ARTICLES DESCRIBE THE ERRORS AND MISINFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL REPORTING OF THE INCIDENT.

6. (U) FOLLOWING BRIEF VISITS EARLIER IN THE WEEK BY JORDAN'S KING HUSAYN THE LEADERS OF KUWAIT. BAHRAIN, AND QATAR; DELEGATIONS FROM UAE AND MOROCCO; AND THE PLO'S YASIR ARAFAT: SYRIA'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN

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MINISTER ABD AL-HALIM KHADDAM PAID A SHORT TWO-HOUR VISIT TO RIYADH ON NOV. 29, APPARENTLY TO LEARN THE DETAILS OF THE MOSQUE INCIDENT AND TO GIVE VERBAL SUPPORT TO THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP. SIMILARLY, YAR PRESIDENT SALIH TELEPHONED CROWN PRINCE FAHD ON NOV.0 EXPRESS HIS DENUNCIATION OF THE OCCUPATION OF THE MOSQUE AND TO OFFER ANY HELP OR ASSISTANCE. WEST

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PAGE 01 STATE 309371
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INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /000 R

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APPROVED BY NEA:HNSAUNDERS
NSC:HUNTER (SUB)
S/S-O:RSTEVEN
INR/RNA:JMONTVILLE
NEA:MDRAPER

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O 010219Z DEC 79 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 309371

NODIS DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 11/30/79 (SAUNDERS, HAROLD

TAGS: PEPR, EG, US, SA

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN
SAUDI ARABIA AND REQUEST THAT WE PASS MESSAGE TO PRINCE FAHD

REF: CAIRO 24460

1. FOR THE MOMENT BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING
VERY PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO MUBARAK'S INITIATIVE:

-- WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SAUDIS SINCE MECCA
INCIDENT BEGAN AND FEEL THAT AT THIS STAGE IT IS PREMATURE
FOR US, OR EVEN FOR SAUDIS FOR THAT MATTER, TO DRAW OTHER
THAN HIGHLY TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS ABOUT PRECISE SIGNIFICANCE
OF MECCA INCIDENT. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE KEY
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FIGURES IN MOSQUE TAKEOVER ARE STILL HOLDING OUT IN
CATACOMBS AND HENCE SAUDI EFFORTS TO DETERMINE FULL RAMI-
FICATIONS OF THE MOTIVATION OF SEIZURE OF MOSQUE ARE AT
EARLY STAGE.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
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-- IN OUR VIEW IT IS PREMATURE TO TRY TO DETERMINE
POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF INCIDENT OR EXTENT OF SUPPORT
FOR GROUP INVOLVED.

-- OUR EARLY IMPRESSION IS THAT THE SAUDI SECURITY
RESPONSE TO SEIZURE OF THE MOSQUE WAS PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE
WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY THE HOLY NATURE OF THE
LOCATION AND THE DESIRE TO PREVENT HARM TO HOSTAGES BEING
HELD BY THE ATTACKERS.

-- WE, AND SAUDIS, HAVE BEEN AWARE OF REPORTS OF SOME
UNAUTHORIZED ARMS TRAFFIC INTO SAUDI ARABIA. OTHER THAN
THIS, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL OR SECURITY PROBLEMS
IN SAUDI ARABIA PRIOR TO MOSQUE INCIDENT.

-- TO OUR KNOWLEDGE SAG AS SECURITY SITUATION THROUGHOUT
KINGDOM WELL UNDER CONTROL.

-- AS OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION CONTINUES, WE WILL
WANT TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

-- WE BELIEVE AT THIS STAGE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US BOTH
TO KEEP WATCHING THE SITUATION AND DEVELOPING OUR ASSESS-
MENTS BEFORE WE CONSIDER HOW EGYPT MIGHT BEST REACT
IN INDICATING SUPPORT FOR SAUDI ARABIA AND HOW SUCH AN
EXPRESSION MIGHT BEST BE CONVEYED. VANCE

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08351 041018Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 A-02 SY-05 SYE-00 HA-05 MCT-02
CIAE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SES-01
SPH-01 SSN-02 SSM-03 ANAE-00 /071 W
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O 041013Z DEC 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8173
INFO USLO RIYADH PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SA PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 08351

DEPT PASS TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

EO 12065: GDS 12/4/85 (HAMBLEY, MARK G.) OR-P
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA
SUBJECT: MECCA UPDATE: SITUATION AS OF 0800 GMT DEC 4

1. (U) SAUDI INTERIOR MINISTER PRINCE NAYIF BIN ABD
AL-AZIZ ANNOUNCED EARLY DECEMBER 4 THAT THE FOURTEEN-DAY
OPERATION TO "PURGE" THE VAULTS OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN
MECCA OF REMAINING POCKETS OF GUNMEN WAS COMPLETED AS OF
0130 HOURS LOCAL ON TUESDAY, DEC. 4. THE BRIEF ANNOUNCE-
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MENT MENTIONED THAT SOME OF THE GUNMEN WERE CAPTURED WHILE
OTHERS WERE KILLED. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE UNKNOWN
NUMBER OF PILGRIMS WHO WERE REPORTEDLY BEING HELD HOSTAGE
BY THE GUNMEN IN THE BASEMENT AREA OF THE MOSQUE. NAYIF

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INDICATED THAT A DETAILED REPORT WILL BE ISSUED LATER ON.

2. (C) FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, SAG HAS BEEN USING LARGE AMOUNTS OF TEAR GAS AND RELATED CHEMICAL AGENTS TO FORCE THE REMAINING GUNMEN TO SURRENDER. IN LINE WITH INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY KING KHALID, SAG HAS WANTED TO MINIMIZE CASUALTIES TO THE HOSTAGES AND TO ITS OWN FORCES. IN ADDITION, THE KING HAD ORDERED THAT THE GUNMEN BE TAKEN ALIVE SO THAT THEY COULD BE TRIED "IN ACCORDANCE WITH ISLAMIC JUSTICE." THE REAL REASON FOR THE LATTER INSTRUCTION APPEARS TO BE THAT SAG BELIEVED THAT ONE, IF NOT BOTH, OF THE TWO MAIN LEADERS OF THE NOV. 20 OCCUPATION OF THE MOSQUE (APPARENTLY MUHAMMAD ABDALLAH AL-QAHTANI, THE SELF-PROCLAIMED "MAHDI") WAS AMONG THE GUNMEN HOLDING OUT IN THE BASEMENT AREA. NAYIF'S ANNOUNCEMENT GAVE NO INDICATION IF AL-QAHTANI OR ANY OTHER LEADER WAS TAKEN PRISONER. GIVEN HIS ADMISSION THAT SOME OF THE GUNMEN WERE KILLED, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT ANY LEADERS WHO WERE WITH THE GROUP IN THE BASEMENT AREA MIGHT BE AMONG THE DEAD. IF SO, THIS WILL BE A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT TO SAUDI POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES WHO WANTED HIM INTERROGATED AND PUNISHED APPROPRIATELY. (FYI: A SOURCE IN THE SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS REPORTED THAT VERY FEW PRISONERS WERE TAKEN AND THAT THERE WERE MANY SUICIDES. END FYI)

3. (C) CASUALTIES AMONG THE SAUDI FORCES ALSO APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE. OVER THE PAST THREE DAYS THE JIDDA MILITARY HOSPITAL HAS RECEIVED 52 CASUALTIES FROM MECCA.
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ALL APPEARED TO BE FRESHLY WOUNDED. BLOOD FOR TRANSFUSIONS IS REPORTEDLY IN SHORT SUPPLY. LARGER NUMBERS OF WOUNDED ARE ALSO BEING TREATED IN RIYADH WITH OVER 100 EACH IN TWO MAJOR HOSPITALS AND UNKNOWN NUMBERS IN OTHER HOSPITALS IN RIYADH AND MECCA. LARGE PORTION OF THESE SOLDIERS (NATIONAL GUARD, SPECIAL FORCES, AND ARMY) WERE WOUNDED DURING THE MAIN ASSAULT ON THE MOSQUE NOV. 24 AND BEFORE. THERE IS AS YET NO ESTIMATE AS TO THE NUMBER OF DEAD.

4. (C) SECURITY REMAINS TIGHT IN MAIN CITIES OF THE KINGDOM. SAUDI AUTHORITIES ARE REPORTEDLY STILL LOOKING FOR SIZEABLE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SEIZURE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE BUT ESCAPED PRIOR TO AND DURING THE MAIN SAUDI ASSAULT ON NOV. 24. WEST

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-15
SPH-01 /069 W

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P 091059Z DEC 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8229
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
USLO RIYADH PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JIDDA 08479

EO 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SA
SUBJECT: MECCA UP-DATE: PRAYERS RESOUND AT THE HOLY
KA'ABA

REF: JIDDA 8429 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: LED BY THE KING, A THANKFUL SAUDI NATION
OFFERED PRAYERS TO GOD ON DECEMBER 6 AND 7 FOR THE
DELIVERANCE OF THE HOLY KA'ABA FROM GUNMEN AS THE GRAND
MOSQUE IN MECCA WAS AT LAST OPENED FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP.
MEANWHILE, SAUDI MEDIA CONTINUED TO FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION
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ON THE EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS. SAUDI INTERIOR
MINISTER INDICATED THAT HIS MINISTRY WAS CONSIDERING
ISSUING A LAW PROHIBITING THE CARRYING OF FIREARMS WITHOUT
A LICENSE. LAW WOULD NOT APPLY TO TRIBESMEN. INTERIOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUN 2006 200505106

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MINISTER ALSO STATED THERE WAS NO RELATION BETWEEN GRAND MOSQUE INCIDENT AND RUMORS OF TROUBLE IN EASTERN PROVINCE. IN LATTER EPISODES, POLICE HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISPERSE GROUPS OF MARCHERS AT THE BEGINNING OF THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS AND "THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE TO BE MENTIONED ON THIS SUBJECT." END SUMMARY.

2. LAST THURSDAY AND FRIDAY (DEC. 6 AND 7) SAUDI ARABIA WITNESSED AN ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED DISPLAY OF RELIGIOUS DEVOTIONFERVOR IN CELEBRATION OF THE REOPENING OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA TO PUBLIC WORSHIP. ON THURSDAY, DEC. 6, PRINCE NAYIF FORMALLY DECLARED THE MOSQUE REOPENED FOLLOWING A MASSIVE CLEAN-UP OPERATION WHICH BEGAN NOV. 25. IN AN EVENT TELEVISED LIVE BY SAUDI TELEVISION AND REPEATED FREQUENTLY THROUGHOUT THE THURSDAY/FRIDAY WEEKEND, KING KHALID LED MOST MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COURT, CABINET, AND IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS NOTABLES IN THE EVENING PRAYERS AT THE HOLY KA'ABA ON DECEMBER 6. WHILE THESE BROADCASTS WERE, FOR THE LARGE PART, WITHOUT SOUND, THE GREAT EMOTION EXPRESSED IN THE FACES OF THE WORSHIPPERS NEEDED NO ADDITIONAL VERBAL EXPRESSION TO ATTEST TO THE GREAT SOLEMNITY OF THE OCCASION.

3. ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, WHILE THE KING AND HIS ENTOURAGE PROCEEDED TO JIDDA, OVER 150,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED FRIDAY PRAYERS AT THE GRAND MOSQUE. SHAYKH ABDALLAH AL-KHATIB, THE CHIEF IMAM AND SPEAKER OF THE GRAND MOSQUE, DELIVERED THE TRADITIONAL FRIDAY SERMON. NOT SURPRISINGLY, SHAYKH AL-KHATIB'S SERMON DEALT WITH THE NOV. 20-DEC. 4 EVENTS

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IN MECCA. AL-KHATIB THANKED THE GOVERNMENT FOR PURGING THE MOSQUE AND DENOUNCED WHAT HE CALLED "THE MISLED GROUP". HE CALLED ON MUSLIMS TO ADHERE TO THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM AND PRAYED TO ALMIGHTY GOD TO SPARE MUSLIMS THE EVIL OF SEDITION. IN ALL, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT ONE MILLION MUSLIMS PERFORMED FRIDAY PRAYERS IN AND AROUND THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA.

4. MEANWHILE, SAUDI MEDIA CONTINUED TO FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ONBOTH THE EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS AS WELL AS ON THE THURSDAY/FRIDAY RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIDNS. IN AN UNUSUAL GESTURE, THE ARABIC-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "AL-MADINA" PUBLISHED A SPECIAL FRIDAY EDITION, MOST OF WHOSE FRONT PAGE WAS DEVOTED TO A LARGE PHOTOGRAPH OF KING KHALID KISSING THE BLACK STONE AT THE HOLY KA'ABA. RADIO RIYADH,

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MEANWHILE, BROADCAST ON DEC. 6 WHAT WAS AN APPARENTLY TITLED RECORDING OF THE FIRST HOUR AND THE SPEECH MADE BY THE SO-CALLED MILITARY LEADER OF THE ATTACK, JUHAYMAN BIN SAYF AL-UTAYBI. (FYI: THE LOUDSPEAKERS OF THE MOSQUE HAD NOT BEEN TURNED OFF AND, ACCORDINGLY, PEOPLE IN THE VICINITY OF THE MOSQUE COULD EASILY HEAR -- AND RECORD -- THE STATEMENTS OF THE GUNMEN AS THEY WERE AMPLIFIED OVER LOUDSPEAKERS ON THE SEVEN MINARETS. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT TAPES RECORDING THE DRAMATIC EVENTS ARE NOW CIRCULATING IN RIYADH AND OTHER CITIES. END FYI)

5. ON BOTH DECEMBER 6 AND 7 SAUDI TELEVISION AIRED A SPECIAL HOUR-LONG PROGRAM WHICH SHOWED, FIRST, ALL OF THE EFFORTS SAG HAS UNDERTAKEN TO EXPAND THE GRAND MOSQUE SINCE THE 1950S TO MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE TO MORE OF THE MUSLIM FAITHFUL AND, SECOND, A FASCINATING PHOTOGRAPHIC

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P 091059Z DEC 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8230
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
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ACCOUNT OF BOTH THE SEIZURE OF THE MOSQUE ON NOV. 20 (INCLUDING EXTRACTS FROM THE LIVE RECORDING OF THE EVENT) AND SUBSEQUENT SAUDI EFFORTS TO RETAKE THE BUILDING OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. THE SCENES FROM THE MAIN ASSAULT ON THE MOSQUE ON NOV. 24 WERE PARTICULARLY GRAPHIC.

6. AS HAS BEEN TRUE EVERY NIGHT SINCE DEC. 4, THERE WAS FILM FOOTAGE AS WELL OF THE HAGGARD-LOOKING REMNANTS OF THE GROUP WHO WERE CAPTURED BY SAG FORCES. CORPSE PURPORTEDLY OF THE ALLEGED MAHDI (APPARENTLY MUHAMMAD ABDALLAH AL-QAHTANI) WAS ALSO SHOWN. WHEN THE CAMERA AT ONE POINT FOCUSED ON THE BEARDED JUHAYMAN BIN SAYF AL-
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UTAYBI, ONE OF THE RINGLEADERS OF THE GROUP AND VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL AS RESEMBLING RASPUTIN, CHARLES MANSON, OR JOHN BROWN, THE TELEVISION ANNOUNCER STATED: "AND THIS IS JUHAYMAN AL-UTAYBI, SULLEN AND FILTHY AND CONTEMPLATING THE FATE WHICH WILL TAKE HIM TO HELL." INTERIOR MINISTER PRINCE NAYIF ANNOUNCED ON DEC. 8 THAT CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING THE GUNMEN IN THE MOSQUE WILL NOT BE PUNISHED. HOWEVER, ALL ADULTS, INCLUDING WOMEN, WILL BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CRIMES.

7. IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, ENGLISH LANGUAGE "SAUDI GAZETTE" STATED ON DEC. 8 THAT INTERIOR MINISTER PRINCE NAYIF HAD DISCLOSED THAT A STUDY WAS NOW BEING MADE BY HIS MINISTRY ON ISSUING A LAW TO PROHIBIT THE CARRYING OF ARMS WITHOUT A LICENSE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE "GAZETTE" QUOTES NAYIF AS SAYING THAT THERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THE KIND OF ARMAMENTS USED BY THE MECCA GUNMEN AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE BELONGED TO ANY CITIZEN IN THE COUNTRY. NAYIF REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ATTEMPT TO WITHDRAW WEAPONS FROM TRIBESMEN AS MANY CONSIDER THE CARRYING OF WEAPONS SYMBOL OF THEIR MANHOOD. NAYIF ADMITTED THAT LIGHT WEAPONS WERE SOMETIMES SMUGGLED ACROSS THE KINGDOM'S BORDERS BECAUSE THEY ARE SO LONG.

8. THE "GAZETTE" ALSO REPORTS THAT NAYIF WAS ASKED ABOUT RUMORS OF TROUBLE IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE AND ITS RELATION TO THE GRAND MOSQUE INCIDENT. NAYIF RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO RELATION BETWEEN THE TWO. A GROUP OF PEOPLE HAD DEMONSTRATED IN THE EAST AND HELD MARCHES. THE POLICE HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISPERSE THEM AT THE VERY BEGINNING AND

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"THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE TO BE MENTIONED ON THIS SUBJECT."
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUN 2006 200505106

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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 07 JIDDA 08553

EO 12065: GDS 12/11/85 (WEST, JOHN C.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, SA,
SUBJECT: (U) MECCA MOSQUE INCIDENT

REF: JIDDA 8479 AND PREVIOUS

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA ENDED DECEMBER 4, AFTER 15 DAYS. QUESTIONS REMAIN ABOUT IDENTITY OF ATTACKERS, BUT INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE INDICATES THEY WERE RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED ZEALOTS, PREDOMINATELY SAUDI. GROUP WAS KNOWN TO SAUDI AUTHORITIES WHO UNDERRATED THEIR POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLEMAKING. INCIDENT WILL IMPACT ON DECISION-MAKING IN GOVERNMENT, HEIGHTENING TENSION BETWEEN CONSERVATISM AND MODERNIZATION. HOWEVER, WE THINK IT WOULD BE GRAVE MISTAKE, BASED ON THE EVIDENCE SO FAR, TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCLUDE THAT NEAR-TERM (5-7 YEARS) STABILITY OF KINGDOM HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY CALLED INTO QUESTION. WE STILL HAVE THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT THE LONG-TERM IN OUR REPORTING EARLIER THIS YEAR (A-4, A-32, AND JIDDA 260). WHETHER MECCA INCIDENT WILL CAUSE SAG TO GIVE MORE URGENT ATTENTION TO REGIME'S WEAK SPOTS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. END SUMMARY.

3. SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA HAS ENDED WITH CAPTURE OR KILLING OF LAST OF GUNMEN (SEE REFTELS). SEIZURE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE WILL DOUBTLESS HAVE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES AND COMPLETE FACTS ABOUT IT ARE STILL NOT ALONG WITH OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS OF OCCUPATION, THERE ARE NUMEROUS REPORTS CIRCULATING WIDELY AMONG ALL

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ELEMENTS OF LOCAL COMMUNITY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY. MANY STORIES ARE CONTRADICTORY AND SOME ARE OBVIOUSLY BASED UPON PURE SPECULATION. OTHERS, HOWEVER, SEEM TO CONTAIN ELEMENTS OF TRUTH. EMBASSY COMBINES THESE WITH GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS TO PRESENT A SUMMARY OF EVENTS AT MOSQUE AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM, AND SOME OF OUR CURRENT THOUGHTS ON THEIR SIGNIFICANCE.

4. OCCUPATION OF MOSQUE BEGAN AT ABOUT 0530 LOCAL TIME ON NOVEMBER 20, FIRST DAY OF YEAR 1400 A.H. BY ISLAMIC LUNAR CALENDAR. THREE HUNDRED TO FIVE HUNDRED GUNMEN, WHO ENTERED MOSQUE AMONG SEVERAL THOUSAND WORSHIPERS, APPEARED AFTER MORNING PRAYERS, MOVED TO SECURE THE DOORS OF MOSQUE (AN ENORMOUS BUILDING WITH AN AREA CLOSE TO A SQUARE KILOMETR), AND PROCLAIMED ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS THE MAHDI. IN INITIAL CONFUSION, MANY WORSHIPERS ESCAPED, WHILE SEVERAL UNARMED SECURITY GUARDS WERE KILLED.

5. FOR A TIME, GUNMEN CONTROLLED MOST OF MOSQUE. FROM

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MINARETS AND, ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS, POSITIONS ON HILLS OVERLOOKING MOSQUE, GUNMEN COMMANDED APPROACHES TO BUILDING. (JIDDA 8217 QUOTED MISTRANSLATED GOVERNMENT STATEMENT THAT GUNMEN FOR A TIME CONTROLLED A LARGE SECTION OF MECCA.) SAUDI SECURITY FORCES SEALED OFF AREA AND BY SECOND DAY GOVERNMENT FORCES (INCLUDING ARMY, SPECIAL FORCES, GID SECURITY FORCES, AND NATIONAL GUARD) BEGAN PROBING AND INFILTRATION ACTIONS. REAL ASSAULT BEGAN ON FOURTH DAY OF SIEGE, AND OVER NEXT THREE DAYS GUNMEN WERE FORCED TO TAKE REFUGE IN EXTENSIVE CELLAR COMPLEX OF MOSQUE WHERE THEY HELD OUT UNTIL DECEMBER 4.

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OUR MILITARY IN SAUDI ARABIA SAY THAT SAG FORCES HANDLED MECCA INCIDENT WITH CONSIDERABLE PROFESSIONALISM, GIVEN COMPLEXITIES AND CONSTRAINTS INHERENT IN SITUATION.

6. FROM BEGINNING OF OCCUPATION, KEY QUESTION HAS BEEN IDENTITY AND MOTIVATION OF GUNMEN. BECAUSE TALK OF CONFIDENTIAL

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RETURN OF MAHDI HAS A SHIA RING TO IT, EARLIEST ASSUMPTION WAS THAT THEY WERE IRANIANS, OR IRANIAN-INSPIRED SAUDIS. HOWEVER, WHEN MOSQUE WAS RETAKEN, SAUDI INTERIOR MINISTER SAID THAT ONLY FOREIGNERS INVOLVED WERE SMALL NUMBERS OF EGYPTIANS, MOROCCANS, KUWAITIS, NORTH AND SOUTH YEMENIS, AND PAKISTANIS. HE DID NOT MENTION ANY IRANIANS. MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS WERE SAUDI, AND IT NOW APPEARS THAT MOVEMENT WAS PURELY SUNNI AND GREW OUT OF AUSTERE RELIGIOUS CLIMATE OF NAJD. CENTRAL PART OF NAJD IS SPARSELY POPULATED BY STILL-UNSETTLED BEDOUIN TRIBES WHO CLING TENACIOUSLY TO A VERY SEVERE INTERPRETATION OF ISLAM. THERE ARE PERIODIC RUMBLINGS AMONG THESE PEOPLE AGAINST MODERNIZATION, BUT THESE SELDOM TAKE A SERIOUS TURN. ONE SERIOUS UPRISING OCCURRED IN 1929 AND INVOLVED LARGE SECTION OF UTAYBA TRIBE, WHICH HAD PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF MEN TO IKHWAN RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY MOVEMENT SUPPORTING FORMER KING ABD AL-AZIZ IN HIS DRIVE TO UNIFY LANDS WHICH BECAME SAUDI ARABIA. THEY BROKE WITH ABD AL-AZIZ, FEELING THAT KING WAS TOO TOLERANT OF IN-ROADS OF MODERNIZATION, BUT THEY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY REPRESSED.

7. IN MOSQUE INCIDENT, IT APPEARS THAT GUNMEN WERE SPLINTER FROM LARGER GROUP, CENTERED ON ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN MADINA AND DISSATISFIED WITH CHANGES MODERNIZATION WAS BRINGING ABOUT IN SAUDI SOCIETY. GROUP, AS A WHOLE, BELIEVED THAT ISLAMIC VALUES WERE BEING SUBVERTED, MUSLIMS WERE NOT OBSERVING PRAYER CALLS, WOMEN WERE GOING UNVEILED, AND CRIME AND DELINQUENCY WERE INCREASING. SAUDI AUTHORITIES WERE APPARENTLY AWARE OF THIS GROUP AND REPORTEDLY THERE WAS A CONFRONTATION SOMETIME DURING THE SUMMER OF 1979 BETWEEN GROUP AND ULAMA (BODY OF EXPERTS IN RELIGIOUS LAW) OVER RELIGIOUS ISSUES. THE SAUDI CIVIL AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY WISHED TO CRACK DOWN ON GROUP, BUT ULAMA, AFTER INVESTIGATING GROUP'S RELIGIOUS VIEWS,

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O 111422Z DEC 79
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INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
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DECIDED THAT THEY COULD BE TOLERATED. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF UALMA, INCLUDING CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME RELIGIOUS COUNCIL SHAYKH ABD AL-AZIZ BIN ABDALLAH BIN BAZ, WHO FELT THAT AIMS OF GROUP, TARGETED TOWARD RESTORATION OF MORE RIGOROUS RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE, WERE NOT TOO FAR FROM THEIR OWN.

8. HOWEVER, LACK OF SAUDI RESPONSE TO GROUPS DEMANDS WAS NOT SATISFACTORY TO SOME OF MORE ZEALOUS MEMBERS. ONE OF LEADERS OF THIS SPLINTER GROUP WAS JUHAYMAN BIN SAYF AL-UTAYBI OF THE UTAYBA TRIBE. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT 1929 INCIDENT INVOLVING UTAYBA HAD ANY DIRECT CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP WITH EVENTS AT MOSQUE, BUT SPIRITUAL CLIMATE IN TRIBE DOUBTLESSLY HAD IN INFLUENCE ON JUHAYMAN'S VIEWS. A BOOK WRITTEN BY JUHAYMAN HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN KUWAIT, POSSIBLY WITH HELP OF HIS BROTHER, WHO LIVES THERE. IN IT HE EXPRESSES A VERY EXTREME INTERPRETATION OF ISLAM
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AND APOCALYPTIC VERSION OF FUTURE WHICH INCLUDES ROLE FOR A MAHDI AND A FINAL RESTORER OF THE FAITH. JUHAYMAN AND HIS GROUP DECIDED THAT EXPECTED MAHDI WOULD APPEAR ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW YEAR 1400. SINCE ONE TRADITION DECLARES THAT MAHDI WILL APPEAR IN MECCA, THEY BEGAN PREPARING FOR OCCUPATION OF THE MOSQUE.

9. SELF-PROCLAIMED MAHDI WAS APPARENTLY ONE MUHAMMAD BIN ABDALLAH AL-QAHTANI, PRESUMABLY OF THE QAHTAN TRIBE. APPARENT MILITARY LEADER IN OCCUPATION WAS JUHAYMAN BIN SAYF. MUHAMMAD BIN ABDALLAH WAS A RELIGIOUS STUDENT WHO,

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IN THE PAST, HAD CLASHED WITH SAUDI RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL OFFICIALS AND WAS IMPRISONED FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. WHEN THE MOSQUE WAS RETAKEN, SAG AUTHORITIES CLAIMED THAT MUHAMMAD BIN ABDALLAH WAS KILLED, ALONG WITH 134 OTHERS. JUHAYMAN WAS CAPTURED AND, ALONG WITH SOME 169 FELLOW CAPTIVES, DISPLAYED ON SAUDI TELEVISION FOLLOWING A SPECIAL TELEVIEWED ADDRESS ON THE END OF THE MOSQUE EPISODE ON DECEMBER 4.

10. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A TAPE RECORDING OF GUNMEN SPEAKING OVER THE MOSQUE'S PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM AT THE BEGINNING OF TAKEOVER. AN EDITED VERSION OF TAPE HAS BEEN BROADCAST OVER SAUDI RADIO/TV, BUT WE DO NOT YET HAVE A COMPLETE VERSION. THERE ARE A FEW REPORTS THAT GROUP MADE SOME POLITICAL DEMANDS AMOUNTING TO REPLACEMENT OF SAG BY MAHDI AS RULER. THIS WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING SINCE THE MAHDI, BY DEFINITION, WOULD ASSUME TEMPORAL AUTHORITY. IN ANY EVENT, WE ARE STRUCK BY FACT THAT GUNMEN DID NOT USE TACTICS OF POLITICAL REVOLUTIONARIES. APART FROM PROCLAIMING A MAHDI AND REPORTEDLY QUESTIONING THE RELIGIOSITY OF THE SAUDI LEADERS, THE GUNMEN MADE NO EFFORT TO INCITE A GENERAL UPRISING. THERE WERE REPORTS OF A THWARTED ATTEMPT TO

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 07 JIDDA 08553

TAKE GRAND MOSQUE IN MADINA, BUT NO OTHER ATTACKS
OCCURRED. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT JUHAYMAN'S WRITINGS
PREDICT THAT THE MAHDI WILL TAKE MOSQUES AT BOTH MECCA
AND MADINA; HE WILL THEN RECAPTURE CONSTANTINOPLE AND
FOUR YEARS LATER WILL KILL THE DEVIL AT JERUSALEM.)
THERE WERE NO ATTACKS ON RADIO STATIONS, GOVERNMENT OR
MILITARY INSTALLATIONS; NO PREPARED PAMPHLETS; NO

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POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION OF HOSTAGES. IN FACT, IT APPEARS THAT GUNMEN DID NOT, AT BEGINNING, TRY TO TAKE HOSTAGES. INSTEAD, THEY ASKED THE WORSHIPPERS TO ACCEPT MUHAMMAD BIN ABDALLAH AS THE MAHDI. IF GUNMEN MADE ANY ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE WITH GOVERNMENT AFTER SIEGE BEGAN, WE HAVE HEARD NO REPORT OF IT. THIS BEHAVIOR WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH SAG'S POSITION THAT OCCUPATION WAS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT PERPETRATED BY RELIGIOUS RENEGADES.

11. WE ARE ALSO STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT THE GROUP WAS
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REASONABLY WELL ORGANIZED. IT APPEARS THAT THE MOSQUE TAKEOVER WAS PLANNED WELL IN ADVANCE. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM INDIAN DCM THAT GROUP OF INDIAN PILGRIMS DURING THE HAJJ SURPRISED SOME PEOPLE PILING UP BOXES IN THE BASEMENT OF THE MOSQUE. INDIAN PILGRIMS CONCLUDED FROM THE UNEASY RESPONSE OF THOSE HANDLING THE BOXES THAT THEY WERE UP TO NO GOOD. IT IS ALSO PROBABLE THAT AT LEAST SOME MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAD SOME MILITARY TRAINING, JUDGING FROM WAY THEY CONDUCTED THEMSELVES DURING SIEGE. WE HAVE HAD REPORTS THAT GROUP INCLUDED SOME MEMBERS OR FORMER MEMBERS OF NATIONAL GUARD.

12. ONE OF BIG QUESTIONS IN LOCAL CIRCLES IN JIDDA IS WHETHER GROUP HAD OUTSIDE SUPPORT. ORGANIZATION IN BEIRUT CALLED "PEOPLE'S UNION OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA" HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOSQUE TAKEOVER, BUT IN VIEW OF THAT ORGANIZATION'S BAATHIST AND LEFTIST ANTECEDENTS, WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT ORGANIZATION HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH MAHDISTS. WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK THAT PEOPLE'S UNION'S CLAIM WAS ATTEMPT TO CAPITALIZE ON INCIDENT. THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO THINK SOME OF GROUP MAY HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY SOUTH YEMENIS. AGAIN, GIVEN SOUTH YEMEN'S CURRENT POLITICAL ORIENTATION, WE DOUBT THAT GROUP IN MOSQUE HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH PDY. FURTHER, IF SOUTH YEMENIS HAD TRAINED SAUDI ZEALOTS, WHY DID NOT PDY SEE THAT THEY HAD BETTER WEAPONS? WE UNDERSTAND THAT GROUP HAD MIXED BAG OF SOVIET KHALASHNIKOV RIFLES, OLD FRENCH AND BRITISH RIFLES, AND ONE .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUN. THERE IS ALSO REPORT THAT ZEALOTS MAY HAVE HAD ASSISTANCE FROM HIJRA WA TAKFIR GROUP IN CAIRO, BUT, IN VIEW OF EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT'S RIGOROUS ACTION AGAINST THAT GROUP, WE WONDER IF THEY WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO HELP ANYONE. ONE THING IS CERTAIN: IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THEY RECEIVED HELP FROM ALL THREE.

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O 111422Z DEC 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8271
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SA PRIORITY
USLO RIYADH PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 07 JIDDA 08553

13. OUR SAUDI INTERLOCUTORS SAY THAT QUESTION OF MONEY AND SOURCE OF ARMS IS NOT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT, POINTING OUT THAT GUNS HAVE BEEN SMUGGLED INTO THE KINGDOM FOR MONTHS FOR SALE TO BEDOUINS. IT APPEARS THAT KHALASHNIKOV RIFLES ARE HIGHLY PRIZED BY THE BEDOUINS. WHO OPENLY AND CEREMONIOUSLY DISPLAYED THESE WEAPONS IN THEIR MARCH PAST THE KING LAST JUNE ON HIS VISIT TO ABHA. SAUDIS ALSO SAY THAT OBTAINING MONEY FOR PURCHASE OF RIFLES IS NO PROBLEM. ONE KNOWLEDGABLE SAUDI TOLD US THAT ZEALOT GROUP HAD BEEN RAISING MONEY FOR SOME TIME THROUGH RELIGIOUS CHARITIES AND THAT SHAYKH BIN BAZ MAY HIMSELF HAVE CONTRIBUTED, NOT KNOWING WHAT THE MONEY WAS GOING TO BE USED FOR.

14. IN ANY EVENT, WE MUST POINT OUT THAT THIS MAHDIST GROUP HAD VERY LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS. THE GROUP

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ATTRACTED LITTLE SYMPATHY AMONG THE SAUDI POPULATION, LARGELY BECAUSE OF THEIR DEVIATION FROM ORTHODOX ISLAMIC BELIEF, AS WELL AS THEIR BLOODY ASSAULT ON THE HOLIEST SITE IN ISLAM. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT RELIGIOUS TENETS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND IT WOULD REQUIRE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN RELIGIOUS BELIEF AND A SEVERE WRENCHING OF RELIGIOUS VALUES FOR

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SAUDIS TO ACCEPT THE RELIGIOUS CLAIMS OF SOMEONE WHO PROCLAIMS HIMSELF TO BE THE MAHDI.

15. WE DO NOT YET KNOW HOW SAUDI LEADERSHIP IS GOING TO REACT TO THESE EVENTS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL IMPORTANT FACTS THEY WILL HAVE TO RECKON WITH. FIRST, THERE WAS AN INTELLIGENCE FAILURE. NOTION THAT SAG KNOWS EVERYTHING THAT IS GOING ON IN THE KINGDOM HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED. IT IS TRUE THAT SAG INTELLIGENCE KNEW OF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS GROUP, BUT PLAIN FACT IS THAT INTELLIGENCE SERVICES DID NOT KNOW THAT GROUP, WHICH WAS SIZEABLE IN NUMBER, WAS PLANNING TAKEOVER OF MOSQUE. AFFAIR OBVIOUSLY DID NOT ENHANCE FORTUNES OF PRINCE TURKI AL-FAYSAL, THE HEAD OF SAUDI INTELLIGENCE. WE SUSPECT THAT INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS WILL UNDERGO SHARP SCRUTINY IN DAYS AHEAD. IN ADDITION, ROYAL FAMILY WILL NO DOUBT BE SENSITIVE TO POSSIBLE CHARGE, AT LEAST FROM ABROAD, THAT THEY DID NOT DO ENOUGH TO PROTECT HOLY PLACES. WE CAN EXPECT SAG TO TIGHTEN SECURITY IN GENERAL. IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO DO SO IN MECCA AND MADINA.

16. SECONDLY, CONSERVATIVE DISCONTENT IN THE KINGDOM MAY BE MORE WIDESPREAD THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. WE HAVE ALWAYS ASSUMED THERE WAS LARGE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THAT SAUDI LEADERS WOULD HAVE TO WALK A TIGHTROPE BETWEEN THE CONSERVATIVES AND THE MODERNIZERS

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8272
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 07 JIDDA 08553

IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO BRING KINGDOM INTO 20TH CENTURY.
THEY HAVE TO MOVE FAST ENOUGH TO SATISFY MODERNIZERS,
BUT NOT SO FAST AS TO EXCITE OPPOSITION OF THE

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CONSERVATIVES. WE HAVE EXPECTED MINOR INCIDENTS, BUT AN INCIDENT OF THIS SIZE RAISES SERIOUS POLICY ISSUES. IT IS TRUE THAT THIS PARTICULAR GROUP COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CHALLENGING GOVERNMENT, BUT A LARGER, MORE RELIGIOUSLY ORTHODOX GROUP MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SO IN THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES. WE THINK THIS IS ONE REASON SAG AUTHORITIES ARE CONTINUING STEPPED UP SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM.

17. IRONICALLY, IT MAY BE CONSERVATIVES WHO WILL SUFFER MOST AS A RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT. JUDGMENT OF ULAMA IS LIKELY TO BE CALLED INTO QUESTION, SINCE SOME OF MOST IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THAT AUGUST BODY (E.G., SHAYKH BIN BAZ) PROTECTED ZEALOTS WHEN AUTHORITIES WANTED TO CRACK
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DOWN ON THEM. FURTHER, THERE IS ALREADY A SENSE OF INCOMPREHENSION AMONG THE RELIGIOUS AS TO HOW GOD COULD ALLOW GUNMEN TO TAKE OVER, HOLD, AND DESECRATE THE KA'ABA FOR 15 DAYS WITHOUT STRIKING THEM DOWN. AS THIS THOUGHT GRADUALLY PERMEATES POPULAR RELIGIOUS CONSCIOUSNESS, IT IS LIKELY, FOR SOME, TO HAVE WEAKENING EFFECT ON FAITH ITSELF. FOR OTHERS, FACT THAT SAG FREED MOSQUE WILL BE SEEN AS SIGN THAT IT HAS BLESSING OF GOD AND IS ACTING IN HIS NAME.

18. WE DO NOT YET KNOW HOW SAUDI LEADERSHIP IS GOING TO REACT TO ALL THESE EVENTS. INVESTIGATION IS STILL BEING CONDUCTED, AND SAUDI RESPONSE -- LIKELY TO BE SLOW IN COMING -- IS STILL BEING FORMULATED. THERE SEEM TO BE TWO TENDENCIES AMONG SAG LEADERS. THEY ALL AGREE THAT STRONG RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS IN KINGDOM HAS CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE THAT SPAWNS FANATICS AND SCHISMATICS. THERE ARE THOSE WHO TEND TO VIEW THAT SAG MUST CLAMP DOWN ON DEVIATION FROM ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS VIEW. OTHERS TEND TO VIEW THAT SOLUTION IS TO DE-EMPHASIZE RELIGIOUS TRAINING. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHICH OF THESE DIRECTIONS THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP WILL TAKE OR WHETHER IT WILL BE A COMBINATION OF THE TWO.

19. WE SUSPECT THAT THERE WILL ALSO BE THOSE WHO WILL ADVOCATE MOST ATTENTION TO SENSITIVITIES OF CONSERVATIVES AND A SLOW-DOWN OF MODERNIZATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, SAUDI LEADERS MAY WELL DECIDE TO RESIST ANY ATTEMPT TO PUT BRAKE ON MODERNIZATION AND MAY, IN FACT, SPEED UP ATTEMPTS TO EDUCATE AND BRING INTO STREAM OF MODERN LIFE

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MORE TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY.

20. ONE CONCLUSION ALREADY REACHED BY SAG IS THAT IT
COULD HAVE HANDLED INFORMATION BETTER. AUTHORITIES

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INSTINCTIVELY REACTED IN THEIR CUSTOMARY FASHION TO CLAMP LID ON NEWS AND CONSEQUENTLY CUT TELECOMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN KINGDOM AND OUTSIDE WORLD DURING FIRST 24 HOURS OF INCIDENT, STIMULATING RUMOR INTERNALLY, CAUSING WILD SPECULATION IN ISLAMIC WORLD, AND BRINGING SOME LEADERS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES CLOSE TO PANIC. AFTER FIRST DAY, SAG WAS MORE FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING TAILORED DOSES OF INFORMATION.

21. WE THINK SHAKEUP WITHIN UPPER LEVELS OF SAUDI GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF MOSQUE ATTACK IS UNLIKELY. ROYAL FAMILY'S INSTINCTIVE RESPONSE TO ADVERSITY IS A UNIFIED STAND. THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN DIDSPLAYED IN COVERAGE OF CRISIS BY SAUDI MEDIA. SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRINCE ABDALLAH, AS HEAD OF NATIONAL GUARD, SHARES RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNAL SECURITY; BUT THE OPERATION OF RETAKING MOSQUE WAS UNDER
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PRINCE SULTAN AND PRINCE NAYIF. SOME DIPLOMATS HERE HAVE INTERPRETED THIS AS A SIGN OF A DECREASE IN CONFIDENCE IN ABDALLAH, WHO IS SECOND IN LINE FOR THE THRONE. HOWEVER,

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ABDALLAH AND CROWN PRINCE FAHD WERE BOTH OUT OF COUNTRY WHEN ATTACK OCCURRED. NEITHER MADE ANY APPEARANCE AT MECCA, TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. AFTER THEIR RETURN, CROWN PRINCE FAHD REMAINED IN JIDDA TO COORDINATE OVERALL RESPONSE TO CRISIS, WHILE ABDALLAH WENT TO RIYADH TO ASSIST KING IN HIS MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN LEADERS WHO CAME TO DEMONSTRATE ARAB SOLIDARITY WITH SAUDI ARABIA. LIKE OTHERS, ABDALLAH RECEIVED A WELL-PUBLICIZED TELEGRAM OF THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS FROM KING AFTER RETAKING OF MOSQUE. IN ANY EVENT, WE DO NOT THINK HE, NOR ANY OTHER MAJOR PRINCE, WILL SUFFER AN ECLIPSE AS RESULT OF THESE EVENTS. IN FACT, IT IS OUR PRESENT JUDGEMENT THAT UNITY OF THE FAMILY HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

22. IN SUM, WHILE KINGDOM HAS BEEN SHOCKED BY MECCA INCIDENT, WE THINK THAT IT WOULD BE GRAVE MISTAKE, BASED ON THE EVIDENCE SO FAR, TO CONCLUDE THAT THE NEAR-TERM (5-7 YEARS) STABILITY OF REGIME HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY CALLED INTO QUESTION. NONETHELESS, WE HAVE NOTED ANOTHER UPSURGE IN PRIVATE SAUDI COMMENT WHICH, ON ONE HAND, IS CRITICAL OF APPARENT TOLERANCE BY THE SAUD FAMILY OF CORRUPTION AND OSTENTATION AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, HOPE THAT SHOCK OF MECCA INCIDENT WILL LEAD FAMILY TO ADOPT GREATER DISCIPLINE OVER ITS MEMBERS. WE STILL HAVE THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT THE LONG TERM IN OUR REPORTING EARLIER THIS YEAR (A-4, A-32, AND JIDDA 260). WHETHER MECCA INCIDENT WILL CAUSE SAG TO GIVE MORE URGENT ATTENTION TO REGIME'S WEAK SPOTS REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 08638

EO 12065: 12/16/85 (PLACKE, JAMES A.) OR-M
TAGS; PINS, PEPR, SA, YS, XF
SUBJECT: (C) SEIZURE OF GRAND MOSQUE AT MECCA

REF: DAS TWINAM-DCM PLACKE TELCON DECEMBER 15

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT STORY IS ABOUT TO BREAK IN U.S.
PRESS WHICH QUOTES AUTHORITATIVE SAUDI SOURCE AS SAYING
THAT PDYR WAS BEHIND THE SEIZURE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN
MECCA.

3. THIS IS ONE OF SEVERAL THEORIES CURRENTLY PERCOLATING
THROUGH SAG. [REDACTED] TOLD AMBASSADOR ON DECEMBER 15
THAT PDYR WAS NOW ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT RELIGIOUS FANATICS
IN THE KINGDOM IN ORDER TO WEAKEN SAUDI ARABIA AND TO
ADVANCE PDYR'S AIMS. [REDACTED] TOLD AMBASSADOR SAME
THING ON DECEMBER 5. KING TOLD SECRETARY MILLER ON
NOVEMBER 24 THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF COMMUNIST
FORCES HAD BACKED GUNMEN. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] TOLD POLCOUNS ON DECEMBER 10 THAT SOME
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THINK THAT SOME OF THE GUNMEN WERE TRAINED IN SOUTH YEMEN.
AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE OTHER THEORIES NAMING OTHER
COUNTRIES.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X1, 25X6
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 1 JAN 2025
DATE/CASE ID: 12 JUL 2006 200505106

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4. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM DECEMBER 16,
[REDACTED] ECHOED THEME OF
EXPLOITATION OF RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM BY SAUDI "DISSIDENTS"
(HIS CAREFULLY CHOSEN WORD) WHO NUMBERED SEVERAL HUNDRED
AND WHO ATTRACTED MORE NUMEROUS FOLLOWING OF RELIGIOUS
ZEALOTS WITH STORY OF MAHDI. THEIR OBJECTIVE, HE SAID,
HAD BEEN RESTRUCTURING SAUDI SOCIETY. [REDACTED] NOTED THAT
SMALL NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS FACTION WERE
FOREIGNERS BUT AVOIDED IDENTIFYING INCIDENT AS FOREIGN-
INSPIRED. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT ANY LATENT
SYMPATHY FOR GROUP HAD BEEN LOST BY GENERAL ABHORRENCE
OF ATTACK ON GRAND MOSQUE. [REDACTED] SAUDI MINISTER
OF INFORMATION CONTINUES PUBLICLY TO DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY
OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT.

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5. IT IS, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE THAT IN VIEW OF WORSENING
RELATIONS WITH PDRY, SAG MAY HAVE DECIDED TO USE INCIDENT
TO BLACKEN PDRY NAME AND ISOLATE IT FROM REST OF ARAB
WORLD. IN THIS CASE, SAG MAY HAVE DECIDED TO FLOAT STORY
IN WASHINGTON PRESS. IN ANY EVENT, WE ARE TOLD THAT THE
RESULTS OF THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION WILL BE MADE PUBLIC
SOON. IN THE MEANTIME, WE THINK THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN
SHOULD CONFINE ANY COMMENTS ON THE MECCA INCIDENT TO A
SIMPLE STATEMENT THAT MATTER IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION
BY SAG AUTHORITIES WHO PLAN TO ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF THEIR
INVESTIGATIONS ONCE THEY ARE COMPLETED. WEST

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
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AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
USLO RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5737

E.O. 12065: RDS 3 12/16/88 (DICKMAN, F.M.) OR-M
TAGS: SCUL, SOFN, PINT, KU, SA
SUBJECT: (C) MECCA MOSQUE INCIDENT: THE WRITINGS OF JUHAYMAN
AL-UTAYBI

REF: (A) KUWAIT 5422 (NOTAL, (B) JIDDA 8553

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).
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2. WE HAVE OBTAINED A COPY OF THE BOOKLET
DESCRIBED REF A WRITTEN BY SPOKESMAN FOR "BROTHERHOOD
GROUP" AND ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE ASSAULT ON

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUN 2006 200505106

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MECCA'S GRAND MOSQUE, JUHAYMAN MOHAMMED SAYF AL-UTAGYBI AS WELL AS THREE OTHER BOOKLETS BY THE SAME INDIVIDUAL. AS JIDDA HAS REPORTED (REF B) THESE BOOKLETS WERE PUBLISHED HERE AND JUHAYMAN AL-UAYBI SPENT SOME TIME IN KUWAIT. FOUR BOOKS ARE ENTITLED:

A) "THE CALIPHATE (IMAM, PLEDGING OF ALLEGIANCE AND OBEDIENCE. AND REVEALING HOW RULERS DECIEVE LEARNED MEN AND THE COMMON PEOPLE". (37 PAGES).

B) "THE ONENESS AS IT OCCURRED, AND IS CALLED FOR IN THE KORAN". (48 PAGES).

C) "THE BROTHERS' CALL: HOW IT STARTED AND ITS OBJECTIVE. ADVICE AND WARNING CONCERNING THE GRAVE DANGERS AND CORRUPTION AT SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES." (36 PAGES). EXTRACTS OF THIS BOOKLET WERE PUBLISHED IN A KUWAITI NEWSPAPER NOV 29 (REF A).

D) "THE BALANCE OF MAN'S LIFE: THE REASON FOR DEVIATIONS FROM THE STRAIGHT PATH." (27 PAGES).

3. DIPPING INTO THESE BOOKLETS, WE COME AWAY WITH PRELIMINARY IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE MORE THAN EXPRESSIONS OF RELIGIOUS ZEALOTRY, AS SUGGESTED REF B, PARA 8. HOWEVER, WE FIND THEM SO LARDED WITH OBSCURE THEOLOGICAL REFERENCES THAT, EVEN HAD WE HAD TIME AND RESOURCES TO ATTEMPT A FULL AND SCHOLARLY TRANSLATION, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO DO SO. FOR FLAVOR, HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT IN GOOKLET ONE, JUHAYMAN CHALLENGES THE AUTHORITI OF TODAY'S MUSLIM RULERS WHOM HE DESCRIBES AS "IMPOSED" AND UNWORTHY OF ALLEGIANCE OR OBEDIENCE
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BECAUSE THEY RULE WITHOUT REFERENCE TO KARAN AND THE SUNNA (THE WAY OF THE PROPHET.) HE CONDEMNS MEN OF RELIGION WHO PRAY FOR SUCH RULERS AND HE ATTACKS THE MUTAWA'EEEN (RELIGIOUS POLICE IN SAUDI ARABIA) AS SERVANTS OF MAN RATHER THAN OF GOD.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE IMPORTANCE OT THESE TEXTS IN ATTEMPTING TO ANALYZE SIGNIFICANCE OF BROTHERHOOD GROUP IN PARTICULAR AND ISLAMIC REVIVAL IN GENERAL, PLEASE INSTRUCT EMBASSY TO WHOM IT SHOULD FORWARD COPIES OF THE FOUR BOOKLETS FOR TRANSLATION AND STUDY.
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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SA

SUBJECT: MOSQUE SEIZURE

1. WE ARE TRANSMITTING FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE ROBERTA
HORNIG STORY ON THE SEIZURE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA
AS REPORTED IN THE WASHINGTON STAR, DECEMBER 16, 1979.

BEGIN TEXT:

SAUDI ARABIAN FORCES ENDED THE SEIGE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN
MECCA ONLY AFTER A COMMANDO-STYLE ROOM-TO-ROOM BATTLE THAT
SURPRISED THEM WITH ITS FEROCITY.

"WE REALIZED THIS WAS SOMETHING BIGGER" AFTER DISCOVERING
THE SOPHISTICATED TACTICS USED BY THE INTRUDERS, ACCORDING
TO AN EYE WITNESS, A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY.

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THE SOURCE, A TOP SAUDI OFFICIAL WHO ASKED THAT HE NOT BE
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IDENTIFIED, SAID YESTERDAY HE BELIEVES THE SEIZURE OF
ISLAM'S HOLIEST MOSQUE WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, PER-
PETRATED BY WELL-TRAINED GUERRILLAS USING RELIGIOUS
FANATICS AS AN INSTRUMENT.

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IN THE FIRST STATEMENT BY A SAUDI CHARACTERIZING THE EPISODE AS OTHER THAN RELIGIOUS-INSPIRED, THE OFFICIAL SAID HE BELIEVES THE ATTACK LEADER, JUHAMAN OTABI, A MEMBER OF A RELIGIOUSLY FUNDAMENTALIST TRIBE, WAS PROBABLY TRAINED IN SOUTH YEMEN, AND THAT HIS INTENTION WAS "TO UNDERMINE THE STABILITY" OF THE OIL KINGDOM.

AND OF THE APPROXIMATELY 500 ATTACKERS, THE OFFICIAL ESTIMATED THAT 80 PERCENT WERE SAUDIS, THE REMAINDER A MIXTURE OF PAKISTANIS, EGYPTIANS, NORTH AND SOUTH YEMENIS AND "A FEW" KUWAITIS AND MOROCCANS. THE INVADERS INCLUDED 23 WOMEN AND BETWEEN 15 AND 29 CHILDREN, HE SAID.

IN AN INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE ALSO PROVIDED THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT TO DATE OF THE TWO-WEEK-LONG BATTLE TO RETRIEVE THE MOSQUE AFTER IT WAS SEIZED LAST NOV. 20, THE SAUDI OFFICIAL REPORTED THAT MOST OF THE WEAPONS RECOVERED WERE RUSSIAN AK-47 AUTOMATIC RIFLES. THESE WERE LATER DISCOVERED TO HAVE BEEN SMUGGLED INTO THE KINGDOM "TWO TO THREE AT A TIME," HE SAID.

THE ATTACK HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR SOME TIME AND WAS EXECUTED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF 10 RINGLEADERS "TRAINED IN THE BEST GUERRILLA TACTICS" WITH OTABI THE "MILITARY STRATEGIST, THE BRAIN BEHIND" THE OPERATIONS, THE OFFICIAL SAID.

"I THINK IT WAS SPONSORED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO UNDERMINE THE STABILITY OF SAUDI ARABIA," HE DECLARED. HE
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DISCOUNTED REPORTS THAT THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION WAS BEHIND THE ATTACK, SAYING HE BELIEVED IT WAS SPAWNED BY RUSSIAN "PROXIES."

THE DEATH VICTIMS IN THE TAKEOVER INCLUDED 20 PILGRIMS WHO WERE PRAYING IN THE MOSQUE WHEN IT WAS SEIZED, BETWEEN 60 AND 65 SAUDI SOLDIERS AND 300 OF THE ATTACKERS, THE OFFICIAL AND 65 SAUDI SOLDIERS AND 300 OF THE ATTACKERS, THE OFFICIAL REPORTED.

HE SAID THE 160 CAPTURED, INCLUDING OTABI, ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING TRIED AND EXECUTED IN THE SAUDI FASHION, BY BEHEADING.
THE OFFICIAL SPENDS MUCH TIME IN THE UNITED STATES,
SAID HE "JUST HAPPENED" TO BE IN SAUDIA ARABIA ON THAT TUES-

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DAY, NOV. 20, WHEN THE MOSQUE WAS SEIZED AND THE GOVERNMENT CLOSED OFF THE COUNTRY FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

HIS FIRST THOUGHT WAS THAT THE OIL KINGDOM WAS UNDER ATTACK. THE GOVERNMENT GENERALLY RECEIVED THE NEWS OF THE MOSQUE'S OCCUPATION WITH DISBELIEF, HE SAID.

HERE IS THE OFFICIAL'S ACCOUNT OF THE ATTACK, BASED, HE SAID, ON HIS OWN OBSERVATION AND INTERROGATION OF WORSHIPPERS WHO WERE THERE AT THE TIME:

AT DAWN, WHILE 50,000 PILGRIMS WERE PRAYING IN THE MOSQUE- IT IS AS LARGE AS THREE FOOTBALL FIELDS - ABOUT 50 PERSONS ENTERED THE MOSQUE CARRYING COFFINS WHICH THE IMAM, THE RELIGIOUS LEADER LATER KILLED BY THE ATTACKERS, TOLD THE WORSHIPPERS WERE TO BE PRAYED ON AFTER THE MORNING PRAYER. WORSHIPPERS WERE O E - E MORNING PRAYER. AS SOON AS THE PRAYING STARTED, HOWEVER, SOME OF THE COFFIN BEARERS OPENED THE CASKETS AND TOOK OUT WEAPONS AND HANDED THEM TO THEIR FELLOW ATTACKERS.

SIMULTANEOUSLY, SOME 450 OTHER PARTICIPANTS ON THE CABAL
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POSING AS PILGRIMS "SPLIT TO EACH OF THE 48 DOORS" IN GROUPS OF THREE AND FOUR AND LOCKED THEM, WHILE OTHERS RAN TO THE SECOND FLOOR AND THE SEVEN TOWERING MINARETS.

A PILGRIM INSIDE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO TELEPHONE THE MECCA POLICE. "IT WAS OUR PEARL HARBOR. THE POLICE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT AND THEY SENT A JEEP TO TAKE A LOOK," THE SAUDI OFFICIAL RECALLS.

WHEN THE JEEP ARRIVED AT THE MOSQUE SITE, IT WAS FIRED ON AND THE DRIVER AND ONE OF THE TWO ACCOMPANYING SOLDIERS WERE KILLED.

"IT WAS ONE HOUR AFTER THE TAKEOVER. THAT'S WHEN THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARRIVED."

THE INITIAL REPORTS FROM THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT WAS THAT THE MOSQUE WAS OVERTAKEN SOLELY BY RELIGIOUS FANATICS AND THAT ONE OF THE GROUP CLAIMED TO BE THE MAHDI, THE MESSIAH.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TAKEOVER, THE FANATICS' LEADER, CITING WHAT THE SAUDI CALLS "MISQUOTED KORAN," ISLAM'S HOLY BOOK, PROCLAIMED HIMSELF THE MESSIAH AND ASKED FOR THE ALLEGIANCE

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OF PILGRIMS.

WHEN 18 PILGRIMS AND TWO SOLDIERS INSIDE REFUSED, THEY WERE LINED UP AND KILLED.

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BUT MOST OF THE PILGRIM HOSTAGES, ABOUT 45,000 WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE, AND ANOTHER 4,000 EVENTUALLY DEPARTED, LEAVING ABOUT 100 STILL INSIDE BY THURSDAY.

MEANWHILE, THE POLICE SENT THE SAUDI COUNTERPART OF SWAT
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TEAMS TO THE MOSQUE, TEAMS LATER REINFORCED FROM JEDDAH.

THE POLICE ENCOUNTERED SO MUCH GUNFIRE THAT "WE REALIZED THIS WAS SOMETHING BIGGER" THAN AN INVASION BY RELIGIOUS FANATICS, THE OFFICIAL SAID.

FEARING OUTBREAKS IN OTHER PARTS OF SAUDI ARABIA, THE GOVERNMENT SENT TROOPS TO SEARCH MEDINA - THE SITE OF ANOTHER MOSQUE - AND TO THE OILFIELDS.

SAUDI'S RULER, KING KHALID, SUMMONED RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO DECIDE HOW THE GOVERNMENT COULD PROCEED TO RETAKE THE MOSQUE - IN EFFECT, GROUND RULES FOR WAGING WAR INSIDE SO THAT THE SACRED KAABA, THE HOLIEST SHRINE IN ISLAM WOULD NOT BE HARMED.

THE RULES WOULD ALLOW ENTRANCE THROUGH ONLY TWO OF THE 48 DOORS, THE ONLY TWO NOT POINTING TO THE KAABA, A 50-FOOT HIGH CUBE-LIKE STRUCTURE THAT MOSLEM TRADITION SAYS WAS BUILT BY THE PROPHET ABARAHAM. MOSLEMS LOOK TOWARD THE KAABA TO PRAY.

BY TUESDAY NIGHT, THE NATIONAL GUARD BEGAN ARRIVING AND RINGED THE MOSQUE WITH TANKS.

ON WEDNESDAY MORNING CAME ANOTHER "ASSESSMENT" AND AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO PENETRATE THE TWO DOORS. MADE OF HEAVY STEEL, THEY WITHSTOOD FOUR HAND GRENADES AND "IT TOOK SIX SHELLS FROM RECOILLESS RIFLES TO OPEN THE DOOR."

SAUDI TROOPS ENTERED, BUT BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY FIRING ONLY ONE SMALL AREA WAS CLEARED IMMEDIATELY, AND IT WAS NOT - UNTIL THURSDAY - TWO DAYS AFTER THE ATTACK BEGAN - THAT THE SAUDIS REALLY GOT INSIDE AND LEARNED THE MAGNITUDE OF THE

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ATTACK.

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HE REPORTED THAT NYLON WIRE WAS STRUNG BETWEEN THE MULTITUDE OF COLUMNS SURROUNDING THE MOSQUE COURTYARD "LIKE A FOREST" AND MANY SOLDIERS TRIPPED OVER THEM, MAKING THEM EASY TARGETS FOR THE RAIDERS.

"I REALIZED THAT WE WERE FIGHTING THE WRONG WAY. WE THOUGHT WE WERE FIGHTING RELIGIOUS PEOPLE, NOT GUERRILLAS."

AFTER THE DISCOVERY, THE SAUDIS COPYING THE STRATEGY OF THE INVADERS, DIVIDED INTO SMALL GROUPS, DECIDING "WE WOULD FIGHT LIKE COMMANDOS." DURING THE FIGHTING THE SAUDIS HEARD THE CRIES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN STILL HELD AS HOSTAGES.

BY SATURDAY MORNING, THE SAUDIS FOUGHT THEIR WAY INTO THE BASEMENT, A LABRYNTH OF 220 ROOMS, AND WITH THE HELP OF TEAR GAS BEGAN A ROOM-TO-ROOM BATTLE.

THEY DISCOVERED A TOTAL OF 300 BODIES OF THE MOSQUE ASSAILANTS PILED UP IN THREE OF THE ROOMS, THEIR FACES MUTILATED TO AVOID IDENTIFICATION.

BUT IT WAS ANOTHER 10 DAYS, EXACTLY TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SEIGE BEGAN, BEFORE THE SAUDIS HAD FINALLY OVERCOME THE ATTACKERS. VANCE

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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

THE FOLLOWING IS ARTICLE ENTITLED "SAUDI KING TARGET IN
MECCA ATTACK" WHICH APPEARED IN DECEMBER 20 WASHINGTON
STAR.

BEGIN QUOTE:

--ASSAULT WAS TO BE PART OF PLANNED UPRISING --

THE ASSAULT ON THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA EARLY LAST MONTH
WAS PART OF A PLANNED GENERAL UPRISING IN SAUDI ARABIA
AIMED DIRECTLY AT KING KHALID AND THE REST OF THE SAUDI
ROYAL FAMILY, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SUR-
VIVING MEMBERS OF THE INSURGENT FORCE.

IN ADDITION TO THE ATTACK IN MECCA, THE UPRISING INCLUDED
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A SIMULTANEOUS ATTACK ON A SHRINE IN MEDINA, NORTH OF
MECCA, AND A LARGE DEMONSTRATION OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN THE
VAST SAUDI OIL FIELDS IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY,
SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH THE PRISONER INTERROGATIONS SAID.

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THE CHAIN OF EVENTS, DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN CLOSELY HELD WITHIN THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, REPORTEDLY HAS SO SHAKEN THE HIERARCHY OF THE ROYAL FAMILY THAT SOME MEMBERS HAVE OPENLY TALKED ABOUT LEAVING THE COUNTRY.

IN ONE CONVERSATION INVOLVING A SAUDI PRINCE, THE INCIDENTS--ALL OF WHICH OCCURRED WITHIN A FEW HOURS OF ONE ANOTHER, BEGINNING NOVEMBER 20--REPORTEDLY WERE REFERRED TO AS THE SAUDI ARABIAN "PEARL HARBOR".

THE SOURCES, THEMSELVES CLOSE TO THE MONARCHY, SAY THAT AT THE LEAST, THE UPRISING HAS CAUSED AN INTROSPECTIVE EXAMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL POWER STRUCTURE AND OF THE CURRENT LINE OF SUCCESSION TO THE SAUDI THRONE.

AMONG THE QUESTIONS BEING ASKED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE SOURCES INDICATED, IS WHETHER CROWN PRINCE FAHD, THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AND HEIR APPARENT TO KING KHALID, COMMANDS ENOUGH AUTHORITY AND RESPECT, WITHIN THE NATION GENERALLY AND AMONG THE SAUDI ARMED FORCES IN PARTICULAR, TO CONTEND WITH ANOTHER, MORE BROADLY BASED INSURRECTION.

AT A TIME OF SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS REVIVAL THROUGHOUT THE ISLAMIC WORLD -- AND WHEN MANY ARAB LEADERS HAVE, AT THE VERY LEAST, TONED DOWN THEIR TASTE FOR THE WAYS OF THE WEST--FAHD CONTINUES TO HAVE A JET SETTER'S REPUTATION.

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THE NOVEMBER REVOLT WAS PUT DOWN BY SAUDI NATIONAL GUARDSMEN WITH A STRONG PERSONAL LOYALTY TO THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER, PRINCE SAUD FAISAL. SAUD, HAVING RUSHED TO MECCA FROM AN ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT CONFERENCE HE WAS ATTENDING IN TUNIS, TUNISIA, PERSONALLY TOOK COMMAND OF AND LED THE FORCES THAT EVENTUALLY RECAPTURED THE GRAND MOSQUE.

"THERE IS A VERY GOOD REASON WHY IT WAS NOT THE ARMY OR THE NAVY OR THE AIR FORCE THAT WAS CALLED IN," SAID ONE SOURCE FAMILIAR WITH THE EVENTS OF LAST MONTH.

"THE NATIONAL GUARD WAS THE ONLY GROUP THAT COULD BE COUNTED ON, AND THERE IS A REAL QUESTION HOW EFFECTIVE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HAD SAUD NOT BEEN PERSONALLY IN COMMAND.

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ONE OF THE REBELS CAPTURED IN THE GRAND MOSQUE WAS A COLONEL IN THE NATIONAL GUARD, SOURCES SAID.

AFTER TRYING ORIGINALLY TO BLACK OUT ALL NEWS ABOUT THE NOVEMBER EVENTS - INCLUDING THE SHUT-DOWN OF COMMUNICATION LINES INTO AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON THE DAY THE TURMOIL BROKE OUT -- SAUDI AUTHORITIES HAVE PROVIDED SOME SKIMPY

INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENTS AT MECCA AND THE REBELS INVOLVED IN THEM.

BUT OFFICIALS ACCOUNTS PORTRAY THE FIGHTING AT MECCA AS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT, INSTIGATED BY A GROUP OF MISGUIDED RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS. LITTLE INFORMATION HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS ABOUT TROUBLE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH THE EVENTS SAID, HOWEVER, THAT AT THE SAME TIME AS SOME 500 HEAVILY ARMED MEN WERE STAGING THE TAKEOVER IN MECCA, A SMALLER BAND WAS LAUNCHING AN UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTACK ON THE MOSQUE IN MEDINA, SECOND ONLY TO THE GRAND MOSQUE IN RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE MOSLEM WORLD.

THE PLANNED TAKEOVER THERE WAS ABORTED WHEN THE ATTACKERS FOUND A UNIT OF SAUDI NATIONAL GUARDSMEN IN THE SHRINE. BY HAPPENSTANCE, THE SOURCES SAID, THE SOLDIERS HAD STOPPED TO PRAY AT THE MOSQUE FOLLOWING A TRAINING EXERCISE NEARBY.

A FEW SHOTS WERE EXCHANGED BEFORE THE REBELS, EVIDENTLY REALIZING THEY WERE OUTGUNNED, WITHDREW, SOURCES SAID.

THESE SAME SOURCES QUOTED INSURGENTS CAPTURED IN MECCA AS ADMITTING UNDER INTERROGATION THAT THE TWO RAIDS WERE PART OF THE SAME OPERATION.

THEY SAID IT WAS LESS CERTAIN THAT DEMONSTRATIONS THAT OCCURRED DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN THE SAUDI OIL FIELDS WERE RELATED TO VIOLENCE AT THE TWO MOSQUES. THE TROUBLE IN THE OIL FIELDS, SOURCES SAID, APPEARED RATHER TO BE AN OUTGROWTH OF A RELIGIOUS DEMONSTRATION BY SHIITE MOSLEMS.

THE SHIITE SECT, WHICH HAS BUT A SMALL FOLLOWING IN

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SAUDI ARABIA, IS THE DOMINANT RELIGIOUS FORCE IN IRAN.

THE SOURCES SAID THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS, HELD ANNUALLY AT THE START OF THE MOSLEM NEW YEAR, WERE UNUSUALLY LARGE LAST MONTH AND THAT EFFORTS BY SAUDI MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO CONTROL THE CROWDS LED TO AN OUTBREAK IN FIGHTING.

AS THE STRUGGLE BECAME MORE SERIOUS, ADDITIONAL TROOPS HAD TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE OIL FIELDS. SHOTS WERE FIRED, AND BETWEEN 12 TO 20 DEMONSTRATORS WERE KILLED, THE SOURCES UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID.

SAUDI AUTHORITIES PREVIOUSLY HAVE DISCLOSED THAT THE FIGHTING IN MECCA INVOLVED UP TO 500 ATTACKERS, MOST OF

THEM SAUDIS AND THE REMAINDER OF THE FORCE A MIXTURE OF PAKISTANIS, EGYPTIANS, NORTH AND SOUTH YEMENIS AND A HANDFUL OF MOROCCANS AND KUWAITIS.

THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY REPORTS FROM UNOFFICIAL SOURCES, WHO ALSO SAID SOME OF THE PRISONERS TAKEN AT THE MOSQUE ACKNOWLEDGED THEY WERE TRAINED IN ADJOINING SOUTH YEMEN. SOUTH YEMEN, A MARXIST STATE ON THE TIP OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA, HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AS A TRAINING CAMP FOR A VARIETY OF TERRORIST GROUPS.

THE PRECISION OF THE ATTACK IN MECCA AND THE TACTICS DEMONSTRATED IN HOLDING OUT AGAINST A SAUDI SIEGE FOR TWO WEEKS HAVE CONVINCED SAUDI AUTHORITIES THAT THE PLOTTERS HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO A HIGH DEGREE OF MILITARY TRAINING, SOURCES SAID.

THESE SOURCES ALSO REVEALED THAT INTERROGATION OF THE CAPTIVES HAS CONVINCED SAUDI AUTHORITIES THAT KING KHALID HIMSELF WAS THE TARGET OF THE ATTACK. THE KING HAD PLANNED TO ATTEND RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES IN THE MOSQUE THAT DAY, BUT HAD CANCELED HIS APPEARANCE AFTER BECOMING ILL.

BUTTRESSING THIS BELIEF, SOURCES SAID, ARE REPORTS FROM PILGRIMS WHO WERE IN THE MOSQUE AT THE TIME OF THE TAKEOVER.

THESE EYEWITNESSES SAID THE INTRUDERS FANNED OUT THROUGH THE HUGE MOSQUE AND BEGAN CLOSELY EXAMINING THE FACES OF

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WORSHIPPERS, APPARENTLY IN THE BELIEF THAT KHALID HAD
DISGUISED HIMSELF AND WAS ATTEMPTING TO BLEND IN WITH
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THE CROWDS OF PILGRIMS.

SOURCES SAID THE PLOTTERS HAD HOPED TO CAPTURE KHALID
AND HOLD HIM HOSTAGE UNTIL THEIR DEMANDS THAT A FUNDA-
MENTALIST, IRAN-LIKE STATE BE CREATED.

PREVIOUS ACCOUNTS HAVE PUT THE DEATH TOLL IN THE MECCA
FIGHTING AT ABOUT 20 PILGRIMS, BETWEEN 60 AND 65 SAUDI
SOLDIERS (SOME OF THEM REPORTEDLY CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS)
AND APPROXIMATELY 300 ATTACKERS.

NOW THAT THEY HAVE INTERROGATED THE SURVIVING ATTACKERS,
THE SAUDIS ARE PLANNING EXECUTIONS IN THE TRADITIONAL
FASHION, BY BEHEADING. END QUOTE. VANCE

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JIDDA 00210

E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: PINS, SA
SUBJECT: EXECUTION OF MOSQUE ATTACKERS

REF: JIDDA 198

FOLLOWING IS LIST OF NAMES AND NATIONALITIES OF THOSE
EXECUTED FOR THEIR ROLE IN OCCUPATION OF MECCA MOSQUE.
LIST IS BROKEN DOWN ACCORDING TO PLACE OF EXECUTION.

MECCA:

1. JUHAIMAN IBN MUHAMMAD IBN SEIF (SAUDI)
 2. AHMED IBN MARZOUK IBN BUNYAN AL-LAHIBI (SAUDI)
 3. YOUSSEF IBN ABDULLAH ABDUL QADER BAJUNAID (SAUDI)
 4. ESSAM IBN MUHAMMAD ABDUL WAHHAB SHEIKH (SAUDI)
 5. ALI IBN AHMED SHEIKH AL-JAFAN (SOUTH YEMENI)
 6. ALI IBN SALEH AL-JAHDHMIE (SOUTH YEMENI)
 7. AHMED IBN ABDULLAH IBN MANSOUR AL-ZAMEL (SAUDI)
 8. ABBAS IBN JARALLAH SULTAN (SAUDI)
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9. ABDULLAH ABDUL LATIF AHMED RIDWAN (EGYPTIAN)
10. MUBARAK IBN HAZA MUFLEH AL-JAD'AN (KUWAIT)
11. SAID IBN ABDULLAH SAID AL-TURK, ALIAS AL-QAHTANI
- (SAUDI)
12. OQAB IBN AFFAS AL-MAHYA (SAUDI)
13. FARES IBN AADI TALQ AL-TOM (SAUDI)
14. SALEM AL-FATEH MUSTAFA AL-HAJJ ALI (SUDANESE)
15. FAHD DABES BANI AL-SAADOUN (IRAQI)

RIYADH:

1. EID IBN SALEM ISMAIL IBRAHIM AL-SHABEHI (SAUDI)
2. RIDN IBN GHAZI HUMEDAN (SAUDI)
3. ABDULLAH IBN JARALLAH SULTAN (SAUDI)
4. SAMIR ABDUL MAJIID FOUAD MAHMOUD RIFAAT (EGYPTIAN)

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5. FAISAL MUHAMMAD FAISAL (SAUDI)
6. KHALED IBN MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH AL-ZAMEL (SAUDI)
7. MUSAED IBN SAUD MUHAMMAD AL-MUSALLAM (KUWAIT)
8. ALI IBN MAR'IE MUHAMMAD (SAUDI)
9. MUHAMMAD OMAR ELIAS (EGYPTIAN)
10. ABDULLAH IBN MUHAMMAD AHMED ISMAIL (SAUDI)

MEDINA:

1. ABDULLAH ALI AHMED BAHALIM (SOUTH YEMENI)
2. FAHD IBN HALLAL SUWAILEM (SAUDI)
3. ABDULLAH IBN MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM AL-RUMAIH (SAUDI)
4. ABDUL AZIZ IBN MUHAMMAD SULAIMAN AL-HESAN (SAUDI)
5. KAMAL AHMED HASSAN (EGYPTIAN)
6. ABDULLAH IBN ISMAIL
6. ABDULLAH IBN ISMAIL AL-OSSAIMI (SAUDI)

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8580
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SA PRIORITY
USLO RIYADH PRIORITY
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USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 JIDDA 00210

7. AHMED HAJJAJ MAHMOUD AHMED (EGYPTIAN)

DAMMAM:

1. SALEH ABDUL FATTAH MOUSSA AL-RUKH (EGYPTIAN)
2. HASSAN MUHAMMAD SALEM MOHSEN BAJNAF (SOUTH YEMENI)
3. AHMED IBN HASSAN AL-AQDI (SAUDI)
4. MUHAMMAD IBN ABDUL RAHMAN AL-OBAIDLI (KUWAITI)
5. TURKI IBN SALEH SLAIH (SAUDI)
6. OWAIHD IBN HABIB EIBAN (SAUDI)
7. ALI MUHAMMAD QASSEM ABDULLAH (NORTH YEMENI)

BURAIDAH:

1. JABER IBN AHMED HASSAN (SAUDI)
2. ALI IBN MUHAMMAD IBN ABDULLAH SHOAIB (SAUDI)
3. HAMED AHMED IBRAHIM YOUNUS (EGYPTIAN)

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5. FAISAL MUHAMMAD FAISAL (SAUDI)
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 JIDDA 00210

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3. AHMED IBN HASSAN AL-AQDI (SAUDI)
4. MUHAMMAD IBN ABDUL RAHMAN AL-OBALDI (KUWAITI)
5. TURKI IBN SALEH SLAIH (SAUDI)
6. OWALDH IBN HABIB EIBAN (SAUDI)
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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

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E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: PINS, SA
SUBJECT: EXECUTION OF MOSQUE ATTACKERS

REF: JIDDA 198

FOLLOWING IS LIST OF NAMES AND NATIONALITIES OF THOSE
EXECUTED FOR THEIR ROLE IN OCCUPATION OF MECCA MOSQUE.
LIST IS BROKEN DOWN ACCORDING TO PLACE OF EXECUTION.

MECCA:

1. JUHAIMAN IBN MUHAMMAD IBN SEIF (SAUDI)
2. AHMED IBN MARZOUK IBN BUNYAN AL-LAHIBI (SAUDI)
3. YOUSSEF IBN ABDULLAH ABDUL QADER BAJUNAID (SAUDI)
4. ESSAM IBN MUHAMMAD ABDUL WAHHAB SHEIKH (SAUDI)
5. ALI IBN AHMED SHEIKH AL-JAFAN (SOUTH YEMENI)
6. ALI IBN SALEH AL-JAHDHMIE (SOUTH YEMENI)
7. AHMED IBN ABDULLAH IBN MANSOUR AL-ZAMEL (SAUDI)
8. ABBAS IBN JARALLAH SULTAN (SAUDI)

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9. ABDULLAH ABDUL LATIF AHMED RIDWAN (EGYPTIAN)
10. MUBARAK IBN HAZA MUFLEH AL-JAD'AN (KUWAIT)
11. SAID IBN ABDULLAH SAID AL-TURK, ALIAS AL-QAHTANI
- (SAUDI)
12. OQAB IBN AFFAS AL-MAHYA (SAUDI)
13. FARES IBN AADI TALQ AL-TOM (SAUDI)
14. SALEM AL-FATEH MUSTAFA AL-HAJJ ALI (SUDANESE)
15. FAHD DABES BANI AL-SAADOUN (IRAQI)

RIYADH:

1. EID IBN SALEM ISMAIL IBRAHIM AL-SHABEHI (SAUDI)
2. RIDN IBN GHAZI HUMEDAN (SAUDI)
3. ABDULLAH IBN JARALLAH SULTAN (SAUDI)
4. SAMIR ABDUL MAJIID FOUAD MAHMOUD RIFAAT (EGYPTIAN)

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4. SAID IBN ATIAH ALLAH AL-SUBHI (SAUDI)
 5. ABBAS IBN ABDULLAH SAQR THALLAB (SAUDI)
 6. YUSLAM SALEH NASSER BAQATMI (SOUTH YEMENI)
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7. SALEH IBN MUHAMMAD SALEH (SAUDI)

HAIL:

1. IBRAHIM PASHA IBN MATAR AL-SUBHI (SAUDI)
2. MUHAMMAD IBN MOIDH AL-SADR SALEH AL-HAMMADI (SAUDI)
3. MUHAMMAD IBN DAKHEELALLAH AL-SHAYEHI (SAUDI)
4. MUHAMMAD ABU KHISHAH IBN ABDULLAH (SAUDI)
5. HASSAN IBRAHIM BAYOUMI (EGYPTIAN)

ABHA:

1. ABDUL MOHSIN IBN ALI AL-HUDHAINI (SAUDI)
2. SULTAN IBN HAMAD IBRAHIM AL-MAHWAS (SAUDI)
3. AWADH IBN MISHEL AWADH ABDUL KOHL (SAUDI)
4. ATEQ IBN MUHAMMAD ATALLAH (SAUDI)
5. MAROUK IBN BATTAL MARZOUK AL-BISHRI (SAUDI)
6. AHMED MAHMOUD ALI HUSSEIN (EGYPTIAN)
7. MUHAMMAD IBN SAMIH HAMAD AL-SHAFAI (SAUDI)

TABUK:

1. ALI IBN AHMED IBN ALI (SAUDI)
 2. MUHAMMAD HASSAN MUHAMMAD SADEQ (EGYPTIAN)
 3. AHMED SNAN MUHAMMAD (SOUTH YEMENI)
 4. MUHAMMAD IBN ABDULLAH IBN MUHAMMAD AL-RAEQI (SAUDI)
 5. ABDULLAH IBN MARIKHAN FAHAID SAIFI (SAUDI)
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8609
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USLO RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JIDDA 00281

EO 12065: GDS 1/14/86 (PLACKE, JAMES A.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, SA
SUBJECT: (U) PRINCE NAYIF BRIEFS NEWSMEN ON MECCA ATTACK

1. (U) IN WHAT IS A SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL EVENT IN ITSELF,
SAUDI INTERIOR MINISTER PRINCE NAYIF HELD A LONG PRESS CON-
FERENCE IN RIYADH JANUARY 13 TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATED
TO THE NOV. 20 SEIZURE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA.
NAYIF'S REMARKS WERE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE IN ALL
SAUDI PAPERS ON JAN. 14.

2. (U) ACCORDING TO THE "ARAB NEWS", NAYIF TOLD NEWSMEN
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THAT THE GUNMEN WHO SEIZED THE MOSQUE DID NOT BELONG TO A
CLOSELY STRUCTURED GROUP. HE SAID THEY DID HOLD SECRET
MEETINGS, HOWEVER, AND DISTRIBUTED PAMPHLETS PRINTED IN
KUWAIT WHICH, ACCORDING TO NAYIF, INDICATED THAT THEY HAD

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUN 2006 200505106

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BECOME MORE "OUTRAGEOUS" AND WERE CLEARLY DEVIATING FROM MORAL AND RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES.

3. (U) NAYIF EMPHASIZED THROUGHOUT HIS REMARKS THAT THE SEIZURE OF THE MOSQUE WAS NOT SOMETHING ORGANIZED AND PREMEDITATED, BUT "A DECISION TAKEN ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT." HE NOTED THAT THE ATTACK WAS PLANNED AT A MEETING HELD TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO MOSQUE'S SEIZURE (I.E., AROUND NOV. 6). HE LIKEWISE DENIED THAT THE SECURITY FORCES WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE OR THAT ANY EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ARE NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT EVENTS. SIMILARLY, HE DENIED THAT THE RESIGNATION OF PRINCE FAWWAZ BIN ABD AL-AZIZ AS GOVERNOR OF MECCA OR THE TRANSFERS/RETIREMENTS OF SEVERAL SECURITY OFFICERS WAS IN REACTION TO THE MECCA INCIDENT. NAYIF STATED, INSTEAD, THAT ALL OF THESE CHANGES HAD BEEN DECIDED UPON PRIOR TO NOV. 20. AS SAG OFFICIALS HAVE DONE ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, NAYIF REITERATED THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT ANY FOREIGN POWER OR ORGANIZATION HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE ATTACK. SPECIFICALLY, HE STATED THAT HE WAS SURE NO COUNTRY OR ORGANIZATION "HAD SUPPLIED THE RENEGADES WITH ARMS." AT THE SAME TIME, NAYIF SAID THAT A SIMILAR GROUP EXISTS IN KUWAIT, THAT THE KUWAIT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SO INFORMED, AND THAT SAG WILL SUPPLY KUWAIT WITH INFORMATION IN DUE COURSE.

4. (U) IN ADDITION, PRINCE NAYIF REAFFIRMED THAT THE GROUP WHICH SEIZED THE MOSQUE WAS RELIGIOUSLY, NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. HE POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE GROUP'S MEMBERS HAD BEEN PROCLAIMED THE "MAHDI" AND NOTED THAT WHILE THE GROUP'S PAMPHLETS HAD DENOUNCED RADIO AND TELEVISION, THERE WAS NO MENTION OF OIL IN THEIR WRITINGS.

5. (U) ASKED ABOUT NEWS COVERAGE OF THE MECCA INCIDENT, NAYIF SAID THE INFORMATION BLACKOUT WAS NOT INTENTIONAL AND WAS WRONG. HE SAID THIS WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INFORMATION MEDIA AND NOT OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, WHOSE JOB IS RESTRICTED TO SECURITY OPERATIONS.

6. (U) REFERRING TO REPORTS OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, NAYIF CALLED THEM "EXAGGERATED". HE SAID THERE WERE A FEW PROCESSIONS DURING THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF MUHARRAM (NOV. 20-30) WHICH

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WERE QUICKLY TERMINATED. HE ADDED THAT SAG HAD FOUND THE "EXAGGERATIONS (OF INCIDENTS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE) HOSTILE TO THE KINGDOM."

7. (C) COMMENT: NAYIF'S REMARKS AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE DISAPPOINTING, PARTICULARLY AS CROWN PRINCE FAHD'S FAR MORE CANDID AND REVEALING COMMENTS ON THE MECCA INCIDENT TO "AL-SAFIR" (SEPTTEL) STAND IN RATHER SHARP CONTRAST TO NAYIF'S IN MANY OF THE SAME JAN. 14 NEWS-PAPERS. BOTH FAHD AND NAYIF SAY BROADLY THE SAME THING (I.E., INCIDENT HAD NO FOREIGN DIMENSION AND NO DOMESTIC IMPLICATIONS), BUT FAHD STATES IT IN A MANNER WHICH COMES ACROSS AS FAR MORE SINCERE AND CERTAINLY MORE INFORMATIVE.

8. (C) IN CONTRAST, SOME OF NAYIF'S COMMENTS APPEAR INCONSISTENT, WHILE OTHERS APPEAR TO BE PLAINLY INACCURATE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE HE ALLEGED THE SEIZURE OF THE MOSQUE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 JIDDA 00281

WAS A "SPUR OF THE MOMENT" DECISION WITH ONLY A FEW LEADERS KNOWING OF THE DECISION, NAYIF ALSO STATED THAT THE MEETING WHICH LED TO THE ATTACK WAS HELD TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT. IN ADDITION, ALTHOUGH NAYIF INDICATED THAT THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES ARE NO LONGER TAKING ANY EXCEPTIONAL SECURITY MEASURES IN REACTION TO THE EPISODE, IN FACT, THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN LATE DECEMBER PUBLISHED NEW RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS AND USE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE, WHILE SECURITY AT AIRPORTS AND OTHER IMPORTANT INSTALLATIONS HAS BECOME NOTICEABLY TIGHTER. WEST

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AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USLO RIYADH
USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 JIDDA 00282

EO 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, SA
SUBJECT: CROWN PRINCE GIVES CANDID VIEWS ON SAUDI
ARABIA'S INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POSTURE

1. SUMMARY: IN A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH THE BEIRUT PAPER
"AL-SAFIR", SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD COVERED AN UNUSUALLY
WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS CONCERNED WITH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
MATTERS. IN COMMON WITH HIS JAN. 11 "AL-HAWADITH" INTER-
VIEW (JIDDA 242), HE ONCE AGAIN CONDEMNED U.S. AND
EUROPEAN REPORTING OF THE MECCA INCIDENT AND OUTLINED HIS
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GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR NEW CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL AND BASIC
SYSTEM OF LAW (CONSTITUTION). ON OTHER MATTERS, HE
ADMITTED THAT SAG HAD KNOWN FOR 6-7 YEARS ABOUT THE GROUP
WHICH SEIZED THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA. HE REAFFIRMED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUN 2006 200505106

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THAT THE MECCA INCIDENT HAD NO EXTERNAL DIMENSION AND NO DOMESTIC OR POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, FAHD FORCEFULLY GAVE HIS SUPPORT TO ADAPTING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RULES AND NORMS TO MODERN TIMES IN LIGHT OF ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES AND LAWS. FAHD ALSO ADDRESSED WIDE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL TOPICS INCLUDING MIDEAST PEACE, US/PLO RELATIONS, THE RECENT VISIT BY MESSRS. BARTHOLOMEW AND MURRAY, AND THE STATE OF THE KINGDOM'S CURRENT RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION (APPARENTLY PRE-AFGHANISTAN) AND IRAN. END SUMMARY.

2. SAUDI NEWSPAPERS JANUARY 13 AND 14 GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD'S RECENT INTERVIEW WHICH APPEARED IN THE JANUARY 9 ISSUE OF THE BEIRUT NEWSPAPER, "AS-SAFIR". INTERVIEW WAS APPARENTLY CONDUCTED IN RIYADH IN LATE DECEMBER. COMPLETE TEXT OF THIS LONG (22 SECTIONS) BUT UNUSUALLY CANDID INTERVIEW CONTAINED IN FBIS NICOSIA NC101836. SOME OF FAHD'S COMMENTS ON VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ISSUES ARE NOTED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

3. CONDEMNATION OF FOREIGN MEDIA COVERAGE OF MECCA INCIDENT -- CONSISTENT WITH HIS VERY HARSH ATTACK IN HIS "AL-HAWADITH" INTERVIEW (JIDDA 242) ON U.S. AND EUROPEAN REPORTING OF THE MECCA INCIDENT, FAHD TOLD "AL-SAFIR" CHIEF EDITOR SALMAN TALAL THAT THE MECCA EPISODE HAD BEEN BADLY EXPLOITED IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE IN A MANNER WHICH "WENT BEYOND THE FRAMEWORK OF LOGIC AND REASON FOR POLITICAL REASONS, NATURALLY." MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THE

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TARGET OF HIS CRITICISM WAS "WORLD ZIONISM AND THOSE WHO FOLLOW IN ITS FOOTSTEPS", FAHD STATED THAT THESE FORCES HATE TO SEE SAUDI ARABIA MAKING PROGRESS AND AIDING FELLOW ARAB STATES AND PARTICULARLY THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IN CONSEQUENCE, HE ADDED, "THEY WANT US TO BE TOPPLED AND TO DECLINE."

4. NEW CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL -- LIKEWISE AS IN THE "AL-HAWADITH" INTERVIEW, FAHD REITERATED SAG'S PLANS TO INTRODUCE A CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL AND "BASIC SYSTEM" OF LAW (CONSTITUTION). HE SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD CONSIST OF BETWEEN 50-70 MEMBERS, THAT THE MEMBERS WOULD, FOR THE TIME BEING, BE APPOINTED, AND THAT SAG HOPES TO INTRODUCE THIS COUNCIL "IN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING TWO MONTHS." HE ADDED THAT THE "BASIC SYSTEM" OF LAW (FYI:

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SAUDIS CONSIDER THE QURAN TO BE THEIR CONSTITUTION) WOULD
CONSIST OF APPROXIMATELY 200 ARTICLES AND WOULD BE THE
FIRST ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE NEW CONSULTATIVE
COUNCIL.

5. MECCA INCIDENT -- FAHD COMMENTED AT LENGTH ON THE
NOV./DEC. OCCUPATION OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA. HE
DISCLOSED THAT SAG HAD KNOWN ABOUT THE BROTHERHOOD GROUP
(NOT SPECIFIED BY NAME) FOR SIX TO SEVEN YEARS AND THAT
SOME MEASURES HAD BEEN ADOPTED AGAINST THEM IN THE PAST.
HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT "MEN OF RELIGION . . . USED TO
INTERCEDE ON THEIR BEHALF AND WE USED TO RELEASE THEM AND
LET THEM ALONE." HE STATED THAT WHAT WAS NEW ABOUT THIS
GROUP WAS THE FACT THAT THEY CARRIED WEAPONS, ALTHOUGH
THE CROWN PRINCE NOTED THAT EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN SAUDI
ARABIA, BE IT IN THE DESERT OR IN THE CITY, POSSESSES
WEAPONS. FAHD EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS AS YET NO EVIDENCE
THAT THE MECCA INCIDENT HAS ANY "EXTERNAL DIMENSIONS".

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HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS CIRCULATED BY THE GROUP WERE PRINTED IN KUWAIT AND THAT JUHAYMAN BIN SAYF AL-UTAYBI (THE ALLEGED NUMBER TWO IN THE MOVEMENT AND REPUTED AUTHOR OF THE PAMPHLETS, BEHEADED IN MECCA JAN. 9) WAS A VERY ORDINARY AND NAIVE MAN WHO WAS "DEFINITELY EXPLOITED BY OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL UNIDENTIFIED AND WHO COULD BE IN KUWAIT OR ANY OTHER PLACE."

6. ASKED ABOUT THE INTERNAL DIMENSIONS OF THE MECCA INCIDENT, FAHD VERY FORCEFULLY DECLARED THAT THE EPISODE
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DID NOT HAVE ANY POLITICAL OR DOMESTIC IMPLICATIONS AND POINTED TO THE MANY PUBLIC CONDEMNATIONS OF THE MOSQUE SEIZURE MADE BY THE SAUDI PEOPLE. ASKED WHETHER SAUDI ARABIA'S STRICT APPLICATIONS OF RELIGIOUS LAWS MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE DOMINANT CAUSES WHICH LED TO THE HOLY MOSQUE INCIDENT, FAHD RESPONDED THAT SOME IN THE KINGDOM WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO BE EVEN MORE SEVERE AND ACCUSE SAG OF NEGLIGENCE BECAUSE IT PERMITS TELEVISION AND PHOTOGRAPHY. FAHD CHARACTERIZED THOSE SORTS OF DEMANDS AS "ILLOGICAL AND UNACCEPTABLE, PARTICULARLY IN OUR AGE." HE NOTED THAT WE ARE LIVING IN A WORLD MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD OF 50 YEARS AGO. OBSERVING THAT WE ARE STILL ABIDING BY RULES AND NORMS DRAWN UP BY MEN OF RELIGION 200 OR 300 YEARS AGO, FAHD SUGGESTED THAT "PERHAPS THESE RULES WERE GOOD AT THE TIME, BUT THEY AREN'T NOW AND MUST BE REVISED IN LIGHT OF ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES AND LAWS."

7. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES: EGYPT AND MIDEAST PEACE -- BY FAR THE LARGEST (BUT PERHAPS LESS INTERESTING) PORTION OF FAHD'S INTERVIEW WAS DEVOTED TO EGYPT, SADAT, AND MATTERS RELATED TO MIDEAST PEACE. FAHD REITERATED PREVIOUS CRITICISM THAT "SADAT'S STEP HAS LED EGYPT AND THE ARAB NATION NOWHERE. IT HAS NOT EVEN LED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 242"

8. ASKED WHY SAUDI ARABIA HAS NOT TAKEN GREATER ACTION AGAINST EGYPT, FAHD NOTED THAT THE DECISIONS OF THE BAGHDAD SUMMIT, ESPECIALLY THOSE REGARDING THE BOYCOTT OF

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EGYPT, HAD HAD A GREAT EFFECT IN EGYPT AND HAD ACHIEVED THEIR OBJECTIVE. HE ADDED THAT AS SADAT IS NEVERTHELESS CONTINUING HIS STEPS UNCEASINGLY, ARAB LEADERS MUST MEET, DISCUSS, AND TAKE THE MEASURES THEY DEEM NECESSARY AND UNCLASSIFIED

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"WHICH WILL CONFRONT OR MATCH HIS (SADAT'S) CONTINUOUS STEPS."

9. THE U.S. AND THE PLO -- AT ONE POINT FAHD WAS ASKED IF IT WAS TRUE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO. FAHD RESPONDED THAT THE PRESIDENT "TOLD ME THAT HE WAS PREPARED, WANTED AND WAS DETERMINED TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO IF IT RECOGNIZED RESOLUTION 242, AFTER DELETION OF THE LAST PART OF THE RESOLUTION WHICH DESCRIBES THE PALESTINIANS AS REFUGEES. HE AFFIRMED TO ME THAT IF THE PLO ACCEPTED THE AMENDED VERSION OF RESOLUTION 242, THE UNITED STATES WOULD RECOGNIZE IT." ASKED WHETHER THE PRESIDENT HAD MADE PLO RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL A CONDITION, FAHD RESPONDED, "NO, NO, NEVER", AND REITERATED HIS PREVIOUS ANSWER.

10. BARTHOLOMEW/MURRAY VISIT -- FAHD TOLD INTERVIEWERS, IN RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY, THAT A RECENT U.S. MILITARY MISSION HAD VISITED SAUDI ARABIA TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF ARMING THE KINGDOM AND OTHER SIMILAR MATTERS. HE ADDED, "IT DID NOT DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. BASES OR AIRPORTS. IN ANY CASE, YOU CAN AFFIRM ON MY BEHALF THAT SAUDI ARABIA WILL NOT ACCEPT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY KIND OF BASE, AND IT DID NOT CONCLUDE ANY AGREEMENT TO OFFER ANY KIND OF FACILITIES TO THE AMERICANS OR OTHERS. (FYI: FAHD'S STATEMENT ON BASES WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN "AL-RIYADH'S" JANUARY 13 BANNER HEADLINE.)

11. SOVIET-SAUDI RELATIONS (APPARENTLY PRE-AFGHANISTAN) -- IN A RARE COMMENT ON THIS STILL SENSITIVE SUBJECT, FAHD OBSERVED THAT SAUDI ARABIA MUST RECOGNIZE THE POLITICAL FACTS OF THE PRESENT ERA, REGARDLESS OF SAG IDEOLOGICAL

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STAND. HE ADDED THAT SAG HAD RECENTLY NOTED "A POSITIVE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOVIET UNION'S POLICY" AND CITED THE
RELATIVELY RECENT SOVIET MEDIA CAMPAIGN AS EXPRESSING
VIEWS THAT THE USSR "BEHAVES AS THOUGH IT UNDERSTANDS US.
IT NO LONGER DESCRIBES US AS IT HAD BEFORE (AS
REACTIONARIES, COLONIALIST AGENTS, IMPERIALIST LACKEYS,
AND SO FORTH). ON OUR PART, WE BEGAN DEALING WITH IT
EVEN INDIRECTLY IN A REASONABLE WAY." FAHD SAID HE
BELIEVED DIRECT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET
UNION WOULD TAKE PLACE "AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME", BUT
MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THAT TIME WAS NOT NOW. AS HE
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PUT IT: "WE SHOULD FIRST PREPARE OUR PEOPLE FOR THIS.
WE SHOULD MAKE A GREAT EFFORT AT HOME TO CHANGE THE VIEW
OF THE PEOPLE TO MAKE THEM ACCEPT WHAT THEY REJECTED
BEFORE."

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12. SAUDI-IRANIAN RELATIONS -- ON THE EQUALLY SENSITIVE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH IRAN, FAHD SOUNDED EQUALLY PLACATORY. HE SAID SAUDI ARABIA HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH IRAN AT PRESENT, "CONTRARY TO WHAT PREVAILED DURING THE SHAH'S REGIME." HE SAID THAT REGARDLESS OF THE STATEMENTS MADE FROM IRAN BY IRRESPONSIBLE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS ATTACKING THE KINGDOM, DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDER WAY AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL WITH IRANIAN OFFICIALS TO "UNIFY OUR VOICE." HE NOTED THAT HE HAD MET WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE IRANIAN PILGRIMAGE MISSION (FAHD MAY MEAN AYATOLLAH SHIRAZI) AND THAT THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER HAS BEEN INVITED AND WILL SHORTLY VISIT IRAN AND MEET WITH OFFICIALS THERE. WEST

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USLO RIYADH PRIORITY

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EO 12065: GDS 1/28/86 (WEST, JOHN C.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, SA, US
SUBJECT: (S) AMBASSADOR'S YEAR END ASSESSMENT

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: THE YEAR 1979 HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT ONE FOR
SAUDI ARABIA -- AS IT HAS FOR THE USG-SAG BILATERAL
RELATIONSHIP. THE YEAR 1980 WILL NOT BE LESS DIFFICULT
FOR EITHER AND COULD WELL SEE A SUBSTANTIAL DETERIORATION
IN THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP". FOUR MAJOR PROBLEMS, WHICH
FACED SAUDI ARABIA IN THE LAST YEAR, SEEM AT THIS TIME TO
HAVE NO REAL SOLUTION IN SIGHT AND MAY GET WORSE IN 1980.

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THESE ARE:

A. DESTABILIZING RIPPLE EFFECTS OF THE RELIGIOUS
REVOLUTION IN IRAN, TOGETHER WITH SIMILAR BUT UNCONNECTED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUN 2006 200505106

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EVENTS ELSEWHERE, SUCH AS THE MECCA INCIDENT HERE;

B. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE;

C. CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF THE RUSSIAN THREAT;
AND

D. CORRUPTION IN THE WESTERN SENSE.

3. DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE FOUR AREAS IN 1980 WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT ON THE FUTURE OF THE SAUD ROYAL FAMILY AND THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. USG CAPACITY FOR BEING HELPFUL IS LIMITED LARGELY TO B AND C ABOVE. HOWEVER, OUR ACTIONS IN THESE TWO AREAS MAY WELL BE DETERMINATIVE OF THE FUTURE OF THE PRESENT SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT. SINCE THE AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE ENERGY SUPPLIES FOR THE FREE WORLD DURING THE NEXT DECADE DEPENDS IN LARGE PART ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA, THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARE INDEED AT RISK HERE IN 1980.
END SUMMARY.

4. INTRODUCTION: THE YEAR 1979 SAW THREE MAIN EVENTS THAT HAVE HAD AND ARE HAVING PROFOUND EFFECT ON THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SAUDI ARABIA. THEY WERE:

A. THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FULL-FLEDGED RELIGIOUS REVOLUTION IN IRAN, WHICH NOT ONLY TOPPLED THE SHAH FROM
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HIS WELL-ENTRENCHED THRONE, BUT SENT SHOCK WAVES THROUGHOUT THE MUSLIM WORLD;

B. EVENTS CULMINATING IN THE SIGNING OF THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE TREATY; AND

C. A CONTINUATION OF THE SOVIET THREAT -- INCLUDING THE SOUTH YEMEN (PDRY) INVASION OF NORTH YEMEN (YAR) AND, AS THIS IS WRITTEN, THE DIRECT INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN.
END INTRODUCTION.

5. THE IRANIAN RELIGIOUS REVOLUTION: THE SHOCK EFFECT OF THE KHOMEINI REVOLUTION WAS FELT FAR BEYOND IRAN'S BORDERS. IN SAUDI ARABIA, THE FALL OF ANOTHER MONARCH WAS IN ITSELF DISTURBING TO THE SAG RULING FAMILY. THE

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FACT THAT THE MONARCH IN QUESTION WAS A NEIGHBOR ACROSS THE GULF AND ENJOYED THE FULL SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES WAS EVEN MORE UPSETTING. THE CONSTANT BROADCASTS BY IRANIAN MILITANTS OVER RADIO TEHRAN CALLING FOR THE OVERTHROW OF "THE CORRUPT SAUDI MONARCH" HAS SERVED AS AN ALMOST DAILY REMINDER OF THE DANGERS THAT CAN EMANATE FROM A FANATICAL GOVERNMENT IN A NEIGHBORING STATE.

6. IN ADDITION, SAUDI COMPLIANCE WITH OUR REQUEST TO INCREASE OIL PRODUCTION SUBSTANTIALLY TO EASE THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE DISRUPTION OF IRANIAN OIL EXPORTS, AND SAUDI WILLINGNESS TO KEEP PRICES WELL BELOW THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES, HAVE INCREASED TENSIONS WITH OTHER ARAB OIL-PRODUCING STATES. LIKEWISE, MORE AND MORE SAUDIS ARE BEGINNING TO QUESTION THE VALIDITY AND WORTH OF THE USG-SAG "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP". THE SAUD FAMILY IS BEING CRITICIZED FOR ITS ACCOMMODATIONS TO USG, ESPECIALLY IN

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OIL PRODUCTION AND PRICING. MORE AND MORE SAUDIS, BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT, PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, ARE BLAMING USG FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE SHAH'S DEMISE AND ARE POINTING TO THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SHAH AND THE U.S. WITH ITS PARALLELS TO THE SAG-USG RELATIONSHIP. THE FEELING OF PROBABLY A MAJORITY OF SAUDIS NOW IS THAT THE U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONSHIP IS TOP-HEAVY IN FAVOR OF USG. FORTUNATELY, THE TOP LEADERSHIP -- FAHD, ABDALLAH, AND SULTAN -- DO NOT AGREE WITH THIS SENTIMENT.

7. THE FULL IMPACT OF THE EVENTS IN IRAN WERE BROUGHT HOME TO THE SAG RULING FAMILY BY THE SEIZURE OF THE HOLY MOSQUE IN MECCA ON NOVEMBER 20. EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NO
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CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO SETS OF EVENTS, THE MOSQUE INCIDENT WAS A RINGING WARNING TO THE SAG THAT "IT CAN HAPPEN HERE." A SEARCHING REASSESSMENT AND RE-EVALUATION OF ALL SAG POLICY, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC, HAS BEEN TRIGGERED BY THE MECCA AFFAIR. THE RESULTS OF THIS INWARD AND OUTWARD LOOK WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE SAG'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES DURING 1980.

8. EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE TREATY: SAUDI ARABIA WAS FORCED BY EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE TREATY TO CHOOSE BETWEEN ITS CLOSE FRIEND, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD (EXCEPT EGYPT). THE CHOICE WAS NOT EASY, IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE U.S. ATTACHED TO THE TREATY, BUT IN THE END IT WAS DICTATED BY A REASONABLY FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS WOULD NOT WORK BECAUSE BEGIN WOULD NEVER MAKE THE CONCESSIONS NECESSARY TO DEFUSE THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. THAT CONVICTION HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE LACK OF PROGRESS SINCE SIGNING OF THE TREATY. THE TENSIONS HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED BY PRESIDENT SADAT'S PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THE KINGDOM AND ITS LEADERS. THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE, IN MY OPINION, FOR LESSENING OF TENSIONS -- AT LEAST PRIOR TO THE EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS ON FEBRUARY 26. THIS EXCHANGE WILL BE A SYMBOLIC ACT OF GREAT ANNOYANCE, BUT ALSO OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE ARAB WORLD. FAILING DRASTIC ERUPTIONS AS A RESULT OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS, THE TENSIONS WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE AS THE AUTONOMY TALKS GO TOWARD THEIR MAY DEADLINE. IN THE

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UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE AUTONOMY TALKS RESULT IN AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, THE ENTIRE ATMOSPHERE WILL CHANGE DRAMATICALLY FOR THE BETTER OVERNIGHT. HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT THAT THE AUTONOMY TALKS DO NOT MEET THE DEADLINE, OR PRODUCE ONLY AN AGREEMENT NOT SECRET

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SATISFACTORY TO THE PALESTINIANS OR THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD, A MINI-CRISIS WILL THEN ARISE IN THE USG-SAG RELATIONSHIP.

9. WE HAVE, THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF AUTONOMY TALKS, TAKEN THE POSITION THAT WE WOULD EXERCISE OUR PREROGATIVE AS A "FULL PARTNER" IN THE EVENT THAT SADAT AND BEGIN WERE NOT ABLE TO REACH A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO BOTH THE PALESTINIAN AND JERUSALEM PROBLEMS. THE SAUDIS, THEREFORE, EXPECT US TO TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IF A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION IS NOT REACHED BY THE MAY DEADLINE. A FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD BE VIEWED BY THE SAUDIS AS A MAJOR BREACH OF FAITH AND AN ADMISSION THAT EITHER (1) THE U.S. CONSIDERS THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS EFFECTIVELY DEAD; OR (2) AT A MINIMUM, THAT THE PRESENT U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING AT THIS TIME OF ELECTION ANXIETIES AND RIVALRIES AND, THEREFORE, THE USG IS JUST SHELIVING AN ISSUE SO CRUCIAL TO THE AREA IN ORDER TO BUY "ELECTION" TIME.

10. THE SOVIET THREAT: THE BIGGEST SINGLE PLUS IN THE USG-SAG BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IN 1979 WAS THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION WHEN PDYR FORCES INVADED NORTH YEMEN. THE EXPEDITING, UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS, OF PLANES AND EQUIPMENT TO NORTH YEMEN, THE SENDING OF THE F-15'S, THE STATIONING OF THE AWACS IN SAUDI ARABIA, THE SENDING OF A MILITARY PLANNING TEAM, AND THE SENDING OF SUBSTANTIAL NAVAL FORCES INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN, RESTORED IN THE SAUDIS' MINDS THE CREDIBILITY AND RELIABILITY OF USG AS A FRIEND AND ALLY IN TIME OF NEED. HAD THIS NOT BEEN DONE, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE INCREASED ITS OIL PRODUCTION AS IT DID IN JULY, AND MAINTAINED ITS MODERATE PRICING POLICIES.

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11. AS THIS IS WRITTEN, THE EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ARE STILL UNFOLDING, BUT THE PRESIDENT'S FIRM STAND AGAINST THE RUSSIANS WILL PROVIDE ADDED REASSURANCE TO SAUDI ARABIA THAT WE ARE THEIR BEST, IN FACT, THEIR ONLY EFFECTIVE PROTECTOR FROM SOVIET AGGRESSION.

12. CORRUPTION: THE ISSUE OF CORRUPTION IS THE GREATEST SINGLE THREAT TO THE CONTINUED STABILITY OF THE SAG RULING FAMILY. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN FROM TIME TO TIME EVIDENCES OF CRACKDOWNS ON CORRUPTION, THERE ARE INCREASING SIGNS, BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, THAT THE PROBLEM HAS NOT BEEN SERIOUSLY

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ADDRESSED AND IS GETTING WORSE INSTEAD OF BETTER. THE FACT THAT THESE ATTACKS HAVE COME FROM MANY QUARTERS,

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ALL ACCUSING MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF CORRUPTION, HAS BEGUN TO HAVE A CUMULATIVE EFFECT ON PERCEPTIONS THROUGHOUT THE SOCIETY.

13. ONE OF THE SAVING FACTORS IS THAT THE WEALTH OF THE COUNTRY IS SO ENORMOUS THAT THE ALLEGED COMMISSIONS AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF WHAT -- BY WESTERN STANDARDS -- WOULD BE CALLED CORRUPT PRACTICES HAVE NOT AS YET INTERFERED WITH GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF ANY SAUDI. THE SAUDI VERSION OF THE WELFARE STATE PROVIDES, OR SUBSIDIZES, MOST NECESSITIES, BUT DISPARITIES IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH REMAINS -- ESPECIALLY BETWEEN THE CITIES AND THE VILLAGES WHERE BENEFITS ARE ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO ARRIVE. HOWEVER, THE CONDITION IS SERIOUS AND HARD TO EXPLAIN. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME OF THE SEVEREST CRITICS OF CORRUPTION ARE THEMSELVES IN A SERIES OF ENTERPRISES WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, THE PROFITABILITY OF WHICH HAS BEEN ASSURED BY ROYAL INFLUENCE. CONTRASTED WITH OUR WESTERN CONCEPT OF "CONFLICT OF INTERESTS", THIS SOCIETY, INDEED, SOCIETIES IN THE THIRD WORLD, GOES BY WHAT MAY BE DESCRIBED AS "COMPATIBILITY OF INTERESTS" -- ANOTHER ONE IS "SPREAD THE BENEFITS".

14. WHILE THE PROBLEM OF CORRUPTION IS A DIFFICULT ONE, WE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT THE HAZARDS IT POSES, ALTHOUGH I AM DOUBTFUL ABOUT HOW EFFECTIVE WE CAN BE IN INFLUENCING ATTITUDES ON THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE.

15. CONCLUSIONS: THE YEAR 1980 WILL PROBABLY PRODUCE
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EVEN GREATER STRAINS ON THE USG-SAG "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" THAN DID 1979. TWO FACTORS WILL BE DETERMINATIVE OF WHETHER THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IMPROVES OR DETERIORATES: (1) PROGRESS ON MIDEAST PEACE; (2) EFFECTIVENESS OF U.S. MOVES TO COUNTER SOVIET AGGRESSION IN THE AREA.

16. PROGRESS ON THE MIDEAST PEACE DOES NOT MEAN A COMPLETE OR IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN AND JERUSALEM ISSUES -- ALTHOUGH, OF COURSE, SUCH A RESULT WOULD BE A WELCOME UTOPIA. THE SAUDIS WILL BE SATISFIED WITH LESS -- ESPECIALLY IF THEY RECEIVE OUR ASSURANCES THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR MORE.

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17. THE SAUDIS FULLY EXPECT THE MAY DEADLINE TO PASS WITHOUT A SOLUTION TO THE AUTONOMY ISSUE. IN THAT EVENT, THEY EXPECT USG TO TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION ON THIS POINT. A FAILURE TO DO SO WILL MEAN TO THE SAUDIS THAT WE HAVE TACITLY APPROVED WHAT THEY CONSIDER BEGIN'S STALLING TACTICS. BY IMPLICATION, THIS WILL MEAN TO THEM THAT WE ARE APPROVING WHAT AMOUNTS TO A SEPARATE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE.

18. I CANNOT EMPHASIZE TOO STRONGLY HOW DETRIMENTAL SUCH A SCENARIO WOULD BE TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IN ALL OF ITS ASPECTS, INCLUDING OIL PRODUCTION AND PRICING. WHILE THE SAUDIS CONTINUE TO SAY THAT THEY WILL NOT USE THE "OIL WEAPON", SUCH A STATEMENT IS MORE AND MORE CONSIDERED TO REFER TO AN OIL EMBARGO OF THE 1973-74 TYPE. THEIR ACCOMMODATIONS TO U.S. NEEDS IN TERMS OF BOTH PRODUCTION AND PRICE HAVE BEEN A GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS. IF THE TIME EVER ARRIVES (AND IT MAY WELL DO SO IN MAY 1980)

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USLO RIYADH PRIORITY

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WHEN THE SAUDIS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION NO LONGER HAS THE WILL OR THE ABILITY TO BRING ABOUT A LASTING MIDEAST PEACE, THEN THE MOTIVATION FOR ACCOMMODATION TO USG NEEDS WILL BE LESSENED. A POSSIBLE -- EVEN PROBABLE -- RESULT BY JULY OF 1980 WOULD BE A REDUCTION OF PRODUCTION TO 8.5 MBD OR LESS, AND MOVEMENT TOWARD A PRICE CHANGE COMPARABLE TO THE "OIL HAWKS" (INCLUDING MEXICO AND GREAT BRITAIN), NAMELY, A RANGE OF \$30 PER BARREL AND UPWARD.

19. THE SAUDIS WILL BE WATCHING CLOSELY USG ACTIONS TO COUNTER AGGRESSION IN AFGHANISTAN. ANY SOVIET MOVES IN PAKISTAN OR IRAN WILL FURTHER HEIGHTEN THE ALREADY
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EXTREME CONCERN WHICH IS FELT HERE. IF WE CAN SHOW THE SAME DECISIVENESS AND ACHIEVE THE SAME RESULTS AS IN THE YAR-PDRY INCIDENT OF LAST FEBRUARY, THEN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY ENHANCED. THE REAL BOTTOM LINE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP IS U.S. SECURITY IN EXCHANGE FOR SAUDI OIL. WHEN THE SAUDIS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR VULNERABILITY TO SOVIET AGGRESSION, THEN OUR RESPONSE IS CRITICAL AND, IF POSITIVE, IS MOST BENEFICIAL.

20. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. THAT WE REASSURE THE SAUDIS BY BOTH WORD AND DEED THAT WE WILL NOT BE SATISFIED WITH AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE LEAVING UNSOLVED THE QUESTIONS OF THE PALESTINIANS AND JERUSALEM. AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ HAS THE KEY ROLE AND WE ARE FURNISHING HIM SOME DETAILED SUGGESTIONS.

B. THAT WE CONTINUE TO WORK AND CONSULT CLOSELY WITH THE SAUDIS ON HOW TO COUNTER THE RUSSIAN THREAT, MUCH AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST YEAR. SMALL GESTURES, SUCH AS EXPEDITING ARMS AND EQUIPMENT TO THEM, WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL AS A SYMBOLIC, AS WELL AS PRACTICAL, GESTURE. (FOR EXAMPLE, TO SPEED UP DELIVERIES OF THE F-15 BY SIX MONTHS WOULD BE VERY MEANINGFUL TO THE KEY SAG MILITARY AND POLITICAL FIGURES).

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C. THAT WE CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE AND WORK PATIENTLY
WITH SAG IN MEETING AND SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF MODERNI-
ZATION AT A PACE ACCEPTABLE TO THEIR PREVAILING CULTURAL
NORMS. WEST

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OES-09 OMB-01 /146 W

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P 040556Z FEB 80
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AMEMBASSY KABUL POUCH
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SA PRIORITY
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USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X6
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 2 FEB 2025
DATE/CASE ID: 12 JUL 2006 200505106

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 06 JIDDA 00758

EO 12065: GDS 2/3/86 (WEST, JOHN C.) OR-M

TAGS: PINS, SA

SUBJECT: (U) THE MECCA INCIDENT

REF: (A) JIDDA 496, (B) 79 STATE 331226 (NOTAL)
(C) 79 JIDDA 8553, (D) JIDDA A-4 OF 1/14/79,
(E) 79 JIDDA 260

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: SO FAR, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR DOUBTING SAG CLAIM THAT JUHAYMAN'S GROUP WAS RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT, BUT RELIGION IN SAUDI ARABIA IS ALSO POLITICAL. WE DO NOT THINK THIS GROUP REPRESENTED SERIOUS SECURITY THREAT TO SAUDI REGIME, SINCE MESSIANIC PRETENSIONS OF ONE OF LEADERS WOULD HAVE PREVENTED IT FROM GAINING ANY LARGE
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FOLLOWING IN SAUDI ARABIA. WE DO NOT THINK GROUP WAS TRIBAL BASED. SIMILARLY, WE DO NOT THINK THERE WAS ANY FOREIGN CONNECTION, ALTHOUGH JUHAYMAN'S SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT OF HASHIMITE SHERIF HUSAYN OF MECCA IN HIS WRITINGS MAY STIR LATENT SAUDI SUSPICIONS OF JORDANIAN KING HUSSEIN'S INTENTIONS IN THE PENINSULA. BY ITSELF, WE DO NOT THINK INCIDENT HAS DESTABILIZED SAUDI ARABIA, BUT IT HAS CREATED NERVOUSNESS AND CALLED INTO QUESTION A LOT OF ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT SAUDI REGIME. CONTINUED STABILITY DEPENDS ON SAG HANDLING OF CORRUPTION ISSUE AND ON ITS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS MORE SUITED TO POPULATION GROWING IN SIZE AND SOPHISTICATION AND AN ECONOMY RAPIDLY INCREASING IN COMPLEXITY. PROCESS WILL BE COMPLICATED BY NECESSITY FOR SAG TO BALANCE MODERNIZERS AND CONSERVATIVES. TENSION BETWEEN

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THE TWO GROUPS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN RELIGION AND FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY IS WORKED OUT, A PROCESS THAT WILL PROBABLY TAKE ANOTHER GENERATION. SUCH TRANSITIONS OFTEN PRODUCE VIOLENT OUTBURSTS. ALTHOUGH MECCA WAS PERHAPS THE MOST SERIOUS ONE SO FAR, THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN THE PAST AND THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY OF STILL OTHERS IN THE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

3. HAVING READ THE FOUR BOOKS ATTRIBUTED TO JUHAYMAN AVAILABLE TO US AND HAVING STUDIED THE STATEMENTS OF MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRINCE NAYIF AND CROWN PRINCE FAHD, WE BELIEVE WE CAN NOW ADD A FEW MORE JUDGEMENTS TO THOSE REPORTED IN REF B ABOUT THE MECCA INCIDENT.

4. FIRST, WE SEE NO REASON NOW TO DOUBT THE SAG CLAIM THAT THE JUHAYMAN GROUP WAS A RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] HOW IN 1972 SHAYKH ABD AL-AZIZ BIN ABDALLAH BIN BAZ, NOW THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
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RELIGIOUS COUNCIL BUT THEN RECTOR OF THE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN MADINA, ORGANIZED AT THE UNIVERSITY A RELIGIOUS DISCUSSION GROUP CALLED AL-IKHWAN, HOW IN 1974 JUHAYMAN BIN SAYF AL-UTAYBI AND NINE OTHERS SPLIT FROM THE LARGER GROUP, AND HOW THIS SPLINTER GROUP LATER ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN RIYADH. ALTHOUGH NOT PRECISE ON THE SUBJECT, THE WRITINGS OF JUHAYMAN TEND TO CONFIRM THIS, SAYING THAT HIS GROUP, AFTER IT SPLIT FROM THE MAIN GROUP, FIRST ESTABLISHED A CENTER IN THE QASIM AREA, WHERE THEY GATHERED RELIGIOUS WRITINGS AND STUDIED THE QUR'AN AND

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THE SUNNA. JUHAYMAN ALSO CONFIRMS THAT THEY LATER MOVED TO RIYADH. [REDACTED] DESCRIBES HOW THEY TRAVELED AROUND THE COUNTRY TEACHING AND SEEKING CONVERTS, AND THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY ONE OF OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEES WHOSE FRIENDS CAME INTO CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE GROUP IN MOSQUES IN JIDDA.

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5. HOWEVER, HAVING CONFIRMED THAT THE MOVEMENT WAS RELIGIOUS, WE DO NOT WISH TO SAY THAT THERE WAS NO POLITICAL SIDE TO IT. UNLIKE THE WEST, WHERE THE RENAISSANCE SHIFTED THE EMPHASIS FROM THE NEXT LIFE TO THIS LIFE AND BEGAN THE PROCESS OF SEPARATING THE AFFAIRS OF STATE FROM THE AFFAIRS OF RELIGION, THE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL REALMS ARE STILL UNSEPARATED IN SAUDI ARABIA. AGAIN, ONE MUST NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE THAT MANY WESTERN NEWSMEN AND ANALYSTS HAVE MADE BY ASSUMING THAT POLITICAL GOALS ARE SET FIRST AND THEN CLOTHED WITH RELIGION. THE RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE IS STILL THE CONTROLLING VIEW IN THIS CULTURE, AND RELIGION NOT ONLY DEFINES MAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO GOD AND SOCIETY, BUT ALSO REQUIRES THAT THE STATE ENFORCE THOSE RELATIONSHIPS. RELIGIOUS GOALS THEREFORE BECOME POLITICAL GOALS.

6. IN THIS CONTEXT, ANY NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT BECOMES IMPORTANT AND ATTRACTS THE ATTENTION OF THE AUTHORITIES. THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES TELL US THAT THEY KNEW ABOUT THE GROUP LONG BEFORE THE EVENTS OF NOVEMBER, 1979. JUHAYMAN'S WRITINGS SUGGEST THAT MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAD FREQUENT CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE ULAMA, INCLUDING PERHAPS SHAYKH ABD AL-AZIZ BIN BAZ AFTER HE LEFT THE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN MADINA IN 1976 AND BECAME THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME RELIGIOUS COUNCIL. JUHAYMAN ACCUSES SHAYKH SALIH BIN SA'D AL-LIHAYDAN, ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE ULAMA, OF HAVING BEEN A SPY, WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT PERHAPS HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE GROUP AT ONE TIME, PERHAPS IN RIYADH. HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH THEY KNEW ABOUT IT, SAUDI AUTHORITIES MADE NO ATTEMPT TO TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST THE GROUP UNTIL THE SUMMER OF 1978 WHEN, ACCORDING TO

[REDACTED] A YOUNG MEMBER OF A PROMINENT JIDDA FAMILY FINANCED THE PUBLICATION IN KUWAIT OF THE PAMPHLET "DA'WAT AL-IKHWAN". THIS PAMPHLET SET FORTH A VERY FUNDAMENTALIST

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VERSION OF ISLAM AND CALLED FOR A RETURN TO THE TRUE PATH. IT COMPLAINED ABOUT RADIO, TELEVISION, MUSIC, UNVEILED WOMEN, SOCCER, THE WIDESPREAD USE OF WESTERN CLOTHES, THE WEARING OF JEWELRY BY MEN, THE ABSENCE OF SUFFICIENT ISLAMIC CONTENT IN THE EDUCATINNAL SYSTEM, LAXITY IN OBSERVING THE PRAYER CALLS, AND THE ASSOCIATION WITH NON-MUSLIMS. IT ALSO ACCUSED THE SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY AND THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES OF HAVING ABANDONED TRUE ISLAM.

7. THE CRITICISM OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES RESULTED IN THE ARREST OF A NUMBER OF THE GROUP'S MEMBERS, INCLUDING MUHAMMAD BIN ABDALLAH (THE SUBSEQUENT SELF-PROCLAIMED MAHDI). HOWEVER, THEY WERE RELEASED AFTER SIX WEEKS, REPORTEDLY ON INTERVENTION OF SOME OF THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES WHO SYMPATHIZED WITH THE GROUP'S CALL FOR MORE RIGOROUS RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE
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AND WHO APPARENTLY THOUGHT THE GROUP DID NOT PRESENT ANY REAL THREAT TO THE SAUDI REGIME. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE MESSIANIC PRETENSIONS OF MUHAMMAD BIN ABDALLAH, WHICH WE GATHER FROM [REDACTED] ACCOUNT MUST HAVE DEVELOPED ABOUT SPRING 1978. IT MAY BE THAT THE AUTHORITIES DID NOT KNOW OF THOSE CLAIMS OR THAT, IF THEY DID KNOW, THEY ASSUMED THOSE CLAIMS WERE SUFFICIENTLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE MASS OF THE POPULATION AS TO INSURE THE FAILURE OF THE GROUP. INDEED, IT IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT MUHAMMAD BIN ABDALLAH COULD HAVE GAINED A LARGE FOLLOWING IN SAUDI ARABIA, SINCE HIS

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MESSIANIC CLAIMS WOULD HAVE REQUIRED A THEOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT WHICH A RELIGIOUSLY INFORMED POPULATION LIKE THAT OF THE KINGDOM WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO MAKE EASILY. IF RELIGION IS POLITICS, THEN THE RELIGION AND THE THEOLOGY MUST BE ACCEPTABLE BEFORE THE POLITICS IS ACCEPTED.

8. THE EVENT THAT SHOCKED THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP AND CAUSED THEM TO CHANGE THEIR VIEWS WAS THE RESORT TO ARMS AND THE SEIZURE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA. NOT ONLY DID IT SHOCK THE MUSLIM WORLD AND THREATEN TO SULLY THE REPUTATION OF THE HOUSE OF SAUD AS PROTECTORS OF THE HOLY PLACES, BUT IT TARNISHED THE CAREFULLY CULTIVATED IMAGE OF STABILITY IN THE KINGDOM. IT SHOWED THAT PERHAPS SOME OTHER FUNDAMENTALIST GROUP, UNBURDENED BY THE MESSIANIC PRETENSIONS OF ONE OF ITS LEADERS, COULD PRESENT A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE REGIME IF SUFFICIENTLY AROUSED BY THE MODERNIZING POLICIES OF THE LEADERSHIP OR BY EXCESS AND CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES. THUS, DESPITE THE PUBLIC DISCLAIMERS, THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP IS TAKING A NUMBER OF VERY IMPORTANT STEPS THAT SEEM TO BE IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE MECCA INCIDENT. THESE STEPS ARE DESCRIBED IN AN AIRGRAM (1980 JIDDA A-73).

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9. WE SEE NO CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF A FOREIGN CONNECTION.
IT IS TRUE THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS INVOLVED.
THE LIST OF THOSE EXECUTED INCLUDES EGYPTIANS, YEMENIS,
SUDANESE, KUWAITIS, AND IRAQIS. WE ALSO KNOW THAT TWO
BLACK MUSLIMS FROM THE U.S. WERE SOMEHOW INVOLVED AND
THAT ONE OF THEM WAS KILLED DURING THE FIGHTING. HOWEVER,

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THE MAJORITY OF THOSE INVOLVED WERE SAUDIS, AND THE NAMES OF THE FOREIGNERS EXECUTED DO NOT SUGGEST A CONNECTION WITH ANY OUTSIDE FORCE OR GROUP. WE DISCUSSED IN REF C THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONNECTION WITH THE PEOPLES' UNION OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA OR THE "TAKFIR WA HIJRA", AND WE SEE NO REASON TO CHANGE THE JUDGEMENTS WE EXPRESSED THERE. IN FACT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE EGYPTIANS INVOLVED WERE MEMBERS OF THE "TABLIGH", A FUNDAMENTALIST ISLAMIC MISSIONARY GROUP REPORTEDLY ACTIVE IN AFRICA, BUT IT APPEARS THAT THEIR INVOLVEMENT RESULTED FROM PERSONAL

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CONVICTION AND NOT FROM ANY OUTSIDE DIRECTION. THE QUESTION OF THE ARMS SUPPLY FOR JUHAYMAN'S GROUP WAS ALSO DISCUSSED IN REF C, AND AGAIN WE SEE NO REASON TO CHANGE THE VIEW EXPRESSED THERE. WE NOTE THAT JUHAYMAN SPOKE KINDLY IN "DA'WAT AL-IKHWAN" OF SHERIF HUSAYN OF MECCA AND ACCUSED KING ABD AL-AZIZ OF HAVING DECEIVED HIM. THIS REFERENCE MAY STIR SAUDI SUSPICIONS OF JORDANIAN INTENTIONS IN THE PENINSULA. WE ALSO DISCUSSED IN REF C THE POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN JUHAYMAN'S GROUP AND SOUTH YEMEN, AND WE STILL SEE NO REASON TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE WAS A CONNECTION. WE THINK THAT SAUDI LEADERS PROBABLY CONSIDERED AT ONE POINT THE POSSIBILITY OF BLAMING THE SOUTH YEMENIS SO AS TO BLACKEN PDRY REPUTATION AND FURTHER ISOLATE THEM IN THE ARAB WORLD, BUT WE ALSO THINK THAT SAUDIS DECIDED AGAINST SUCH A MANEUVER, ALTHOUGH CERTAIN SAUDIS MADE COMMENTS ALONG THESE LINES TO THE PRESS IN THE U.S.

10. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE A NUMBER OF TRIBESMEN INVOLVED, WE DO NOT THINK THE MOVEMENT WAS BASED ON ANY PARTICULAR TRIBE. EARLY REPORTS CIRCULATING ON THE STREET DID SUGGEST THAT THE GUNMEN WERE FROM THE QAHTANI TRIBE, AND IN ONE INSTANCE IN A TRAINING PROGRAM ON A SAUDI MILITARY BASE THE REPORTS RESULTED IN TWO QAHTANI STUDENTS BEING SHUNNED BY THE OTHER 38 MEMBERS OF THE TRAINING GROUP. HOWEVER, AS SOON AS IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT THE MOVEMENT HAD NO TRIBAL BASE, THE QAHTANIS WERE IMMEDIATELY REINTEGRATED INTO THE GROUP. THOSE INVOLVED IN THE MOSQUE INCIDENT HAD CLEARLY BEEN RECRUITED AROUND THE COUNTRY BY THE ITINERANT TEACHING AND PREACHING MEMBERS OF THE GROUP.

11. LIKEWISE, WE DO NOT THINK THERE WAS ANY DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN JUHAYMAN'S GROUP AND THE IKHWAN OF KING ABD AL-AZIZ' DAY, DESPITE THE FACT THAT BOTH

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY KABUL POUCH
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

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JUHAYMAN'S GROUP AND THE GROUP FROM WHICH THEY SPLIT IN MADINA CALLED THEMSELVES AL-IKHWAN. THE LATER GROUPS SIMPLY TOOK INSPIRATION FROM THE EARLIER, BUT THAT INSPIRATION CAME FROM A STUDY OF HISTORY AND TRADITION, RATHER THAN FROM ANY PERSONAL CONNECTION.

12. TO SUM UP, WE DO NOT THINK THE MECCA INCIDENT HAS, BY ITSELF, DESTABILIZED THE REGIME. BECAUSE OF THE MESSIANIC PRETENSIONS OF MUHAMMAD BIN ABDALLAH, THIS PARTICULAR GROUP STOOD LITTLE CHANCE OF GAINING ANY LARGE FOLLOWING IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THEREFORE DID NOT PRESENT A SERIOUS THREAT. IT DID, HOWEVER, MAKE PEOPLE NERVOUS, INCLUDING BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL CIRCLES, AS WELL AS THE LEADERSHIP. IT CALLED INTO QUESTION A LOT OF ASSUMPTIONS PEOPLE HAD ABOUT THE REGIME AND POINTED UP SOME GLARING PROBLEMS THE REGIME FACES, SUCH AS CORRUPTION

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AND THE NEED FOR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS MORE SUITED TO A POPULATION GROWING IN SIZE AND SOPHISTICATION AND AN ECONOMY RAPIDLY INCREASING IN COMPLEXITY. CONTINUED STABILITY OF THE REGIME DEPENDS IN LARGE PART ON HOW EFFECTIVELY THE LEADERSHIP IS ABLE TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS.

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13. ONE FURTHER OBSERVATION IS IN ORDER. IN OUR VIEW, THE MECCA INCIDENT HAS CLEARLY SHOWN THAT IT IS NO LONGER SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THERE IS INSUFFICIENT ROOM TO THE RIGHT OF THE ROYAL FAMILY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT WHICH COULD POSE A THREAT TO THE PRESENT REGIME. AS WE HAVE SAID PREVIOUSLY (REFS D AND E), ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP IS HOW TO MODERNIZE THE COUNTRY AT A PACE FAST ENOUGH TO SATISFY THE MODERNIZERS, BUT NOT SO FAST AS TO ALIENATE THE CONSERVATIVES. THIS MEANS THAT SAG LEADERSHIP MUST WALK A TIGHTROPE. WHILE THE LEADERSHIP SEEMS NOW TO BE DOING IT FAIRLY WELL, IT COULD FIND ITSELF FACING A SERIOUS CHALLENGE FROM EITHER THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT. THE PERIODIC RESURGENCE OF RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM INCREASES THE PRESSURE FROM THE RIGHT AND CAUSES THE LEADERSHIP TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO PLACATE THE CONSERVATIVES. SUCH PHENOMENA ARE NOT NEW IN SAUDI ARABIA. WE HAD ONE SUCH PERIOD IN 1977 (SEE JIDDA AIRGRAM IN SPRING 1978 ON THE NEW WAHHABIISM), ANOTHER IN THE SUMMER OF 1978, AND WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MIDST OF STILL ANOTHER, THIS TIME INTENSIFIED BY THE KHOMEINI REVOLUTION AND THE MECCA INCIDENT. IN RETROSPECT, WE THINK THE PERIOD OF TIGHTENING OF RELIGIOUSLY-BASED CONTROLS IN SUMMER OF 1978 WAS PROBABLY CAUSED BY THE SAUDI REACTION TO THE ACTIVITIES AND ARREST OF MEMBERS OF JUHAYMAN'S GROUP. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MECCA INCIDENT, WE HAVE HEARD A NUMBER OF COMMENTS FROM PEOPLE WHO SAY THAT,

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SY-05 SYE-00 DCT-02 SES-01
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WHILE THEY COULD NOT SYMPATHIZE WITH THE JUHAYMAN GROUP,
THEY HOPED THE INCIDENT WOULD SHOCK THE COUNTRY BACK TO

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MORE RIGOROUS RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE.

14. THERE MAY BE SOME HOPE THAT THE TENSION BETWEEN MODERNIZATION AND TRADITIONALISM COULD, IN THE COURSE OF TIME, ABATE AND BECOME GENERATIONAL, RATHER THAN GEOGRAPHICAL AS IT WAS IN TURKEY AND IRAN WHERE THE CITIES BECAME MODERNIZED AND THE COUNTRYSIDE REMAINED TRADITIONAL. SAUDI ARABIA IS URBANIZING RAPIDLY. AS MANY AS HALF OF THE SAUDI NATIONALS NOW RESIDE IN THE THREE MAJOR URBAN AREAS AND MANY MORE LIVE IN THE BIG TOWNS. AS URBANIZATION CONTINUES, AS UNIVERSAL EDUCATION SPREADS, AND AS CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD INCREASES, WE THINK THE YOUNGER GENERATION WILL DEVELOP AN ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN RELIGION AND TECHNOLOGY, AND IT
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WILL THEN BE A QUESTION OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION EXPLAINING TO THEIR GRANDFATHERS WHY THEIR WAYS ARE NOT IN CONFLICT WITH ISLAM. HOWEVER, THE TRANSITION WILL PROBABLY TAKE AT LEAST 20 YEARS, AND SUCH TRANSITIONS USUALLY PRODUCE INCIDENTS AS THE ACCOMMODATION IS WORKED OUT. ALTHOUGH MECCA WAS PERHAPS THE MOST SERIOUS ONE SO FAR, THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN A NUMBER OF SUCH INCIDENTS IN THE PAST AND THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY OF STILL OTHERS IN THE FUTURE. WEST

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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032988

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 758 ACTION STATE INFO
DHAHRAN ISLAMABAD KABUL CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SA RIYADH DIA WASHDC
BAGHDAD USNATO USCINCEUR AMMAN DAMASCUS CAIRO DOHA KUWAIT
MANAMA MUSCAT SANA BONN THE HAGUE LONDON PARIS RABAT
ROME TEL AVIV TOKYO NEW DELHI COLOMBO DACCA BRUSSELS
ABU DHABI BEIRUT TRIPLI ALGIERS NOUAKCHOTT TUNIS DJIBOUTI
MOGADISHU NAIROBI DAR ES SALAAM KHARTOUM FEB 04.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 00758

EO 12065: GDS 2/3/86 (WEST, JOHN C.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, SA
SUBJECT: (U) THE MECCA INCIDENT

REF: (A) JIDDA 496, (B) 79 STATE 331226 (NOTAL)
(C) 79 JIDDA 8553, (D) JIDDA A-4 OF 1/14/79,
(E) 79 JIDDA 260
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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: SO FAR, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR DOUBTING SAG
CLAIM THAT JUHAYMAN'S GROUP WAS RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT, BUT
RELIGION IN SAUDI ARABIA IS ALSO POLITICAL. WE DO NOT
THINK THIS GROUP REPRESENTED SERIOUS SECURITY THREAT TO
SAUDI REGIME, SINCE MESSIANIC PRETENTIONS OF ONE OF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X6
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 5 FEB 2025
DATE/CASE ID: 12 JUL 2006 200505106

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LEADERS WOULD HAVE PREVENTED IT FROM GAINING ANY LARGE FOLLOWING IN SAUDI ARABIA. WE DO NOT THINK GROUP WAS TRIBAL BASED. SIMILARLY, WE DO NOT THINK THERE WAS ANY FOREIGN CONNECTION, ALTHOUGH JUHAYMAN'S SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT OF HASHIMITE SHERIF HUSAYN OF MECCA IN HIS WRITINGS MAY STIR LATENT SAUDI SUSPICIONS OF JORDANIAN KING HUSSEIN'S INTENTIONS IN THE PENINSULA. BY ITSELF, WE DO NOT THINK INCIDENT HAS DESTABILIZED SAUDI ARABIA, BUT IT HAS CREATED NERVOUSNESS AND CALLED INTO QUESTION A LOT OF ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT SAUDI REGIME. CONTINUED STABILITY DEPENDS ON SAG HANDLING OF CORRUPTION ISSUE AND ON ITS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS MORE SUITED TO POPULATION GROWING IN SIZE AND SOPHISTICATION AND AN ECONOMY RAPIDLY INCREASING IN COMPLEXITY. PROCESS WILL BE COMPLICATED BY NECESSITY FOR SAG TO BALANCE MODERNIZERS AND CONSERVATIVES. TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN RELIGION AND FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY IS WORKED OUT, A PROCESS THAT WILL PROBABLY TAKE ANOTHER GENERATION. SUCH TRANSITIONS OFTEN PRODUCE VIOLENT OUTBURSTS. ALTHOUGH MECCA WAS PERHAPS THE MOST SERIOUS ONE SO FAR, THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN THE PAST AND THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY OF STILL OTHERS IN THE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

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3. HAVING READ THE FOUR BOOKS ATTRIBUTED TO JUHAYMAN AVAILABLE TO US AND HAVING STUDIED THE STATEMENTS OF MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRINCE NAYIF AND CROWN PRINCE FAHD, WE BELIEVE WE CAN NOW ADD A FEW MORE JUDGEMENTS TO THOSE REPORTED IN REF B ABOUT THE MECCA INCIDENT.

4. FIRST, WE SEE NO REASON NOW TO DOUBT THE SAG CLAIM THAT THE JUHAYMAN GROUP WAS A RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] HOW IN 1972 SHAYKH ABD AL-AZIZ BIN ABDALLAH BIN BAZ, NOW THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME RELIGIOUS COUNCIL BUT THEN RECTOR OF THE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN MADINA, ORGANIZED AT THE UNIVERSITY A RELIGIOUS DISCUSSION GROUP CALLED AL-IKHWAN, HOW IN 1974 JUHAYMAN BIN SAYF AL-UTAYBI AND NINE OTHERS SPLIT FROM THE LARGER GROUP, AND HOW THIS SPLINTER GROUP LATER ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN RIYADH. ALTHOUGH NOT PRECISE ON THE SUBJECT, THE WRITINGS OF JUHAYMAN TEND TO CONFIRM THIS, SAYING THAT HIS GROUP, AFTER IT SPLIT FROM THE MAIN GROUP, FIRST ESTABLISHED A CENTER IN THE QASIM AREA, WHERE THEY GATHERED RELIGIOUS WRITINGS AND STUDIED THE QUR'AN AND THE SUNNA. JUHAYMAN ALSO CONFIRMS THAT THEY LATER MOVED

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TO RIYADH. [] DESCRIBES HOW THEY TRAVELED AROUND THE COUNTRY TEACHING AND SEEKING CONVERTS, AND THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY ONE OF OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEES WHOSE FRIENDS CAME INTO CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE GROUP IN MOSQUES IN JIDDA.

5. HOWEVER, HAVING CONFIRMED THAT THE MOVEMENT WAS RELIGIOUS, WE DO NOT WISH TO SAY THAT THERE WAS NO POLITICAL SIDE TO IT. UNLIKE THE WEST, WHERE THE RENAISSANCE SHIFTED THE EMPHASIS FROM THE NEXT LIFE TO THIS LIFE AND BEGAN THE PROCESS OF SEPARATING THE AFFAIRS OF STATE FROM THE AFFAIRS OF RELIGION, THE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL REALMS ARE STILL UNSEPARATED IN SAUDI ARABIA. AGAIN, ONE MUST NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE THAT MANY WESTERN NEWSMEN AND ANALYSTS HAVE MADE BY ASSUMING THAT POLITICAL

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GOALS ARE SET FIRST AND THEN CLOTHED WITH RELIGION. THE RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE IS STILL THE CONTROLLING VIEW IN THIS CULTURE, AND RELIGION NOT ONLY DEFINES MAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO GOD AND SOCIETY, BUT ALSO REQUIRES THAT THE STATE ENFORCE THOSE RELATIONSHIPS. RELIGIOUS GOALS THEREFORE BECOME POLITICAL GOALS.

6. IN THIS CONTEXT, ANY NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT BECOMES IMPORTANT AND ATTRACTS THE ATTENTION OF THE AUTHORITIES. THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES TELL US THAT THEY KNEW ABOUT THE GROUP LONG BEFORE THE EVENTS OF NOVEMBER, 1979. JUHAYMAN'S WRITINGS SUGGEST THAT MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAD FREQUENT CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE ULAMA, INCLUDING PERHAPS SHAYKH ABD AL-AZIZ BIN BAZ AFTER HE LEFT THE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN MADINA IN 1976 AND BECAME THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME RELIGIOUS COUNCIL. JUHAYMAN ACCUSES SHAYKH SALIH BIN SA'D AL-LIHAYDAN, ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE ULAMA, OF HAVING BEEN A SPY, WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT PERHAPS HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE GROUP AT ONE TIME, PERHAPS IN RIYADH. HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH THEY KNEW ABOUT IT, SAUDI AUTHORITIES MADE NO ATTEMPT TO TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST THE GROUP UNTIL THE SUMMER OF 1978 WHEN, ACCORDING TO

[] A YOUNG MEMBER OF A PROMINENT JIDDA FAMILY FINANCED THE PUBLICATION IN KUWAIT OF THE PAMPHLET "DA'WAT AL-IKHWAN". THIS PAMPHLET SET FORTH A VERY FUNDAMENTALIST VERSION OF ISLAM AND CALLED FOR A RETURN TO THE TRUE PATH. IT COMPLAINED ABOUT RADIO, TELEVISION, MUSIC, UNVEILED WOMEN, SOCCER, THE WIDESPREAD USE OF WESTERN CLOTHES, THE WEARING OF JEWELRY BY MEN, THE ABSENCE OF SUFFICIENT ISLAMIC CONTENT IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, LAXITY IN OBSERVING THE PRAYER CALLS, AND THE ASSOCIATION WITH NON-MUSLIMS. IT ALSO ACCUSED THE SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY AND

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THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES OF HAVING ABANDONED TRUE ISLAM.

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7. THE CRITICISM OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES RESULTED IN THE ARREST OF A NUMBER OF THE GROUP'S MEMBERS, INCLUDING MUHAMMAD BIN ABDALLAH (THE SUBSEQUENT SELF-PROCLAIMED MAHDI). HOWEVER, THEY WERE RELEASED AFTER SIX WEEKS, REPORTEDLY ON INTERVENTION OF SOME OF THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES WHO SYMPATHIZED WITH THE GROUP'S CALL FOR MORE RIGOROUS RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE AND WHO APPARENTLY THOUGHT THE GROUP DID NOT PRESENT ANY REAL THREAT TO THE SAUDI REGIME. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE MESSIANIC PRETENSIONS OF MUHAMMAD BIN ABDALLAH, WHICH WE GATHER FROM [REDACTED] ACCOUNT MUST HAVE DEVELOPED ABOUT SPRING 1978. IT MAY BE THAT THE AUTHORITIES DID NOT KNOW OF THOSE CLAIMS OR THAT, IF THEY DID KNOW, THEY ASSUMED THOSE CLAIMS WERE SUFFICIENTLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE MASS OF THE POPULATION AS TO INSURE THE FAILURE OF THE GROUP. INDEED, IT IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT MUHAMMAD BIN ABDALLAH COULD HAVE GAINED A LARGE FOLLOWING IN SAUDI ARABIA, SINCE HIS MESSIANIC CLAIMS WOULD HAVE REQUIRED A THEOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT WHICH A RELIGIOUSLY INFORMED POPULATION LIKE THAT OF THE KINGDOM WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO MAKE EASILY. IF RELIGION IS POLITICS, THEN THE RELIGION AND THE THEOLOGY MUST BE ACCEPTABLE BEFORE THE POLITICS IS ACCEPTED.

8. THE EVENT THAT SHOCKED THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP AND CAUSED THEM TO CHANGE THEIR VIEWS WAS THE RESORT TO ARMS AND THE SEIZURE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA. NOT ONLY DID IT SHOCK THE MUSLIM WORLD AND THREATEN TO SULLY THE REPUTATION OF THE HOUSE OF SAUD AS PROTECTORS OF THE HOLY PLACES, BUT IT TARNISHED THE CAREFULLY CULTIVATED IMAGE OF STABILITY IN THE KINGDOM. IT SHOWED THAT PERHAPS SOME OTHER FUNDAMENTALIST GROUP, UNBURDENED BY THE MESSIANIC PRETENSIONS OF ONE OF ITS LEADERS, COULD PRESENT A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE REGIME IF SUFFICIENTLY AROUSED BY THE MODERNIZING POLICIES OF THE LEADERSHIP OR BY EXCESS AND CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES. THUS, DESPITE THE PUBLIC

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DISCLAIMERS, THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP IS TAKING A NUMBER OF VERY IMPORTANT STEPS THAT SEEM TO BE IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE MECCA INCIDENT. THESE STEPS ARE DESCRIBED IN AN AIRGRAM (1980 JIDDA A-U73).

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9. WE SEE NO CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF A FOREIGN CONNECTION. IT IS TRUE THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS INVOLVED. THE LIST OF THOSE EXECUTED INCLUDES EGYPTIANS, YEMENIS, SUDANESE, KUWAITIS, AND IRAQIS. WE ALSO KNOW THAT TWO BLACK MUSLIMS FROM THE U.S. WERE SOMEHOW INVOLVED AND THAT ONE OF THEM WAS KILLED DURING THE FIGHTING. HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY OF THOSE INVOLVED WERE SAUDIS, AND THE NAMES OF THE FOREIGNERS EXECUTED DO NOT SUGGEST A CONNECTION WITH ANY OUTSIDE FORCE OR GROUP. WE DISCUSSED IN REF C THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONNECTION WITH THE PEOPLES' UNION OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA OR THE "TAKFIR WA HIJRA", AND WE SEE NO REASON TO CHANGE THE JUDGEMENTS WE EXPRESSED THERE. IN FACT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE EGYPTIANS INVOLVED WERE MEMBERS OF THE "TABLIGH", A FUNDAMENTALIST ISLAMIC MISSIONARY GROUP REPORTEDLY ACTIVE IN AFRICA, BUT IT APPEARS THAT THEIR INVOLVEMENT RESULTED FROM PERSONAL CONVICTION AND NOT FROM ANY OUTSIDE DIRECTION. THE QUESTION OF THE ARMS SUPPLY FOR JUHAYMAN'S GROUP WAS ALSO DISCUSSED IN REF C, AND AGAIN WE SEE NO REASON TO CHANGE THE VIEW EXPRESSED THERE. WE NOTE THAT JUHAYMAN SPOKE KINDLY IN "DA'WAT AL-IKHWAN" OF SHERIF HUSAYN OF MECCA AND ACCUSED KING ABD AL-AZIZ OF HAVING DECEIVED HIM. THIS REFERENCE MAY STIR SAUDI SUSPICIONS OF JORDANIAN INTENTIONS IN THE PENINSULA. WE ALSO DISCUSSED IN REF C THE POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN JUHAYMAN'S GROUP AND SOUTH YEMEN, AND WE STILL SEE NO REASON TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE WAS A CONNECTION. WE THINK THAT SAUDI LEADERS PROBABLY CONSIDERED AT ONE POINT THE POSSIBILITY OF BLAMING THE

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SOUTH YEMENIS SO AS TO BLACKEN PDRY REPUTATION AND FURTHER ISOLATE THEM IN THE ARAB WORLD, BUT WE ALSO THINK THAT SAUDIS DECIDED AGAINST SUCH A MANEUVER, ALTHOUGH CERTAIN SAUDIS MADE COMMENTS ALONG THESE LINES TO THE PRESS IN THE U.S.

10. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE A NUMBER OF TRIBESMEN INVOLVED, WE DO NOT THINK THE MOVEMENT WAS BASED ON ANY PARTICULAR TRIBE. EARLY REPORTS CIRCULATING ON THE STREET DID SUGGEST THAT THE GUNMEN WERE FROM THE QAHTANI TRIBE, AND IN ONE INSTANCE IN A TRAINING PROGRAM ON A SAUDI MILITARY BASE THE REPORTS RESULTED IN TWO QAHTANI STUDENTS BEING SHUNNED BY THE OTHER 38 MEMBERS OF THE TRAINING GROUP. HOWEVER, AS SOON AS IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT THE MOVEMENT HAD NO TRIBAL BASE, THE QAHTANIS WERE IMMEDIATELY REINTEGRATED INTO THE GROUP. THOSE INVOLVED IN THE MOSQUE INCIDENT HAD CLEARLY BEEN RECRUITED AROUND THE COUNTRY BY THE ITINERANT TEACHING AND PREACHING MEMBERS OF THE

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GROUP.

11. LIKEWISE, WE DO NOT THINK THERE WAS ANY DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN JUHAYMAN'S GROUP AND THE IKHWAN OF KING ABD AL-AZIZ' DAY, DESPITE THE FACT THAT BOTH JUHAYMAN'S GROUP AND THE GROUP FROM WHICH THEY SPLIT IN MADINA CALLED THEMSELVES AL-IKHWAN. THE LATER GROUPS SIMPLY TOOK INSPIRATION FROM THE EARLIER, BUT THAT INSPIRATION CAME FROM A STUDY OF HISTORY AND TRADITION, RATHER THAN FROM ANY PERSONAL CONNECTION.

12. TO SUM UP, WE DO NOT THINK THE MECCA INCIDENT HAS, BY ITSELF, DESTABILIZED THE REGIME. BECAUSE OF THE MESSIANIC PRETENTIONS OF MUHAMMAD BIN ABDALLAH, THIS PARTICULAR GROUP STOOD LITTLE CHANCE OF GAINING ANY LARGE FOLLOWING IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THEREFORE DID NOT PRESENT A SERIOUS THREAT. IT DID, HOWEVER, MAKE PEOPLE NERVOUS, INCLUDING BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL CIRCLES, AS WELL AS THE LEADERSHIP. IT CALLED INTO QUESTION A LOT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSUMPTIONS PEOPLE HAD ABOUT THE REGIME AND POINTED UP SOME GLARING PROBLEMS THE REGIME FACES, SUCH AS CORRUPTION AND THE NEED FOR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS MORE SUITED TO A POPULATION GROWING IN SIZE AND SOPHISTICATION AND AN ECONOMY RAPIDLY INCREASING IN COMPLEXITY. CONTINUED STABILITY OF THE REGIME DEPENDS IN LARGE PART ON HOW EFFECTIVELY THE LEADERSHIP IS ABLE TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS.

13. ONE FURTHER OBSERVATION IS IN ORDER. IN OUR VIEW, THE MECCA INCIDENT HAS CLEARLY SHOWN THAT IT IS NO LONGER SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THERE IS INSUFFICIENT ROOM TO THE RIGHT OF THE ROYAL FAMILY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT WHICH COULD POSE A THREAT TO THE PRESENT REGIME. AS WE HAVE SAID PREVIOUSLY (REFS D AND E), ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP IS HOW TO MODERNIZE THE COUNTRY AT A PACE FAST ENOUGH TO SATISFY THE MODERNIZERS, BUT NOT SO FAST AS TO ALIENATE THE CONSERVATIVES. THIS MEANS THAT SAG LEADERSHIP MUST WALK A TIGHTROPE. WHILE THE LEADERSHIP SEEMS NOW TO BE DOING IT FAIRLY WELL, IT COULD FIND ITSELF FACING A SERIOUS CHALLENGE FROM EITHER THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT. THE PERIODIC RESURGENCE OF RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM INCREASES THE PRESSURE FROM THE RIGHT AND CAUSES THE LEADERSHIP TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO PLACATE THE CONSERVATIVES. SUCH PHENOMENA ARE NOT NEW IN SAUDI ARABIA. WE HAD ONE SUCH PERIOD IN 1977 (SEE JIDDA AIRGRAM IN

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SPRING 1978 ON THE NEW WAHHABIISM), ANOTHER IN THE SUMMER OF 1978, AND WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MIDST OF STILL ANOTHER, THIS TIME INTENSIFIED BY THE KHOMEINI REVOLUTION AND THE MECCA INCIDENT. IN RETROSPECT, WE THINK THE PERIOD OF TIGHTENING OF RELIGIOUSLY-BASED CONTROLS IN SUMMER OF 1978 WAS PROBABLY CAUSED BY THE SAUDI REACTION
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TO THE ACTIVITIES AND ARREST OF MEMBERS OF JUHAYMAN'S GROUP. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MECCA INCIDENT, WE HAD HEARD A NUMBER OF COMMENTS FROM PEOPLE WHO SAY THAT, WHILE THEY COULD NOT SYMPATHIZE WITH THE JUHAYMAN GROUP, THEY HOPED THE INCIDENT WOULD SHOCK THE COUNTRY BACK TO MORE RIGOROUS RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE.

14. THERE MAY BE SOME HOPE THAT THE TENSION BETWEEN MODERNIZATION AND TRADITIONALISM COULD, IN THE COURSE OF TIME, ABATE AND BECOME GENERATIONAL, RATHER THAN GEOGRAPHICAL AS IT WAS IN TURKEY AND IRAN WHERE THE CITIES BECAME MODERNIZED AND THE COUNTRYSIDE REMAINED TRADITIONAL. SAUDI ARABIA IS URBANIZING RAPIDLY. AS MANY AS HALF OF THE SAUDI NATIONALS NOW RESIDE IN THE THREE MAJOR URBAN AREAS AND MANY MORE LIVE IN THE BIG TOWNS. AS URBANIZATION CONTINUES, AS UNIVERSAL EDUCATION SPREADS, AND AS CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD INCREASES, WE THINK THE YOUNGER GENERATION WILL DEVELOP AN ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN RELIGION AND TECHNOLOGY, AND IT WILL THEN BE A QUESTION OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION EXPLAINING TO THEIR GRANDFATHERS WHY THEIR WAYS ARE NOT IN CONFLICT WITH ISLAM. HOWEVER, THE TRANSITION WILL PROBABLY TAKE AT LEAST 20 YEARS, AND SUCH TRANSITIONS USUALLY PRODUCE INCIDENTS AS THE ACCOMMODATION IS WORKED OUT. ALTHOUGH MECCA WAS PERHAPS THE MOST SERIOUS ONE SO FAR, THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN A NUMBER OF SUCH INCIDENTS IN THE PAST AND THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY OF STILL OTHERS IN THE FUTURE. UNQUOTE VANCE

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AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JIDDA 00210

E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: PINS, SA
SUBJECT: EXECUTION OF MOSQUE ATTACKERS

REF: JIDDA 198

FOLLOWING IS LIST OF NAMES AND NATIONALITIES OF THOSE
EXECUTED FOR THEIR ROLE IN OCCUPATION OF MECCA MOSQUE.
LIST IS BROKEN DOWN ACCORDING TO PLACE OF EXECUTION.

MECCA:

1. JUHAIMAN IBN MUHAMMAD IBN SEIF (SAUDI)
 2. AHMED IBN MARZOUK IBN BUNYAN AL-LAHIBI (SAUDI)
 3. YOUSSEF IBN ABDULLAH ABDUL QADER BAJUNAID (SAUDI)
 4. ESSAM IBN MUHAMMAD ABDUL WAHHAB SHEIKH (SAUDI)
 5. ALI IBN AHMED SHEIKH AL-JAFAN (SOUTH YEMENI)
 6. ALI IBN SALEH AL-JAHDHMIE (SOUTH YEMENI)
 7. AHMED IBN ABDULLAH IBN MANSOUR AL-ZAMEL (SAUDI)
 8. ABBAS IBN JARALLAH SULTAN (SAUDI)
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9. ABDULLAH ABDUL LATIF AHMED RIDWAN (EGYPTIAN)
10. MUBARAK IBN HAZA MUFLEH AL-JAD'AN (KUWAIT)
11. SAID IBN ABDULLAH SAID AL-TURK, ALIAS AL-QAHTANI
- (SAUDI)
12. OQAB IBN AFFAS AL-MAHYA (SAUDI)
13. FARES IBN AADI TALQ AL-TOM (SAUDI)
14. SALEM AL-FATEH MUSTAFA AL-HAJJ ALI (SUDANESE)
15. FAHD DABES BANI AL-SAADOUN (IRAQI)

RIYADH:

1. EID IBN SALEM ISMAIL IBRAHIM AL-SHABEHI (SAUDI)
2. RIDN IBN GHAZI HUMEDAN (SAUDI)
3. ABDULLAH IBN JARALLAH SULTAN (SAUDI)
4. SAMIR ABDUL MAJIID FOUAD MAHMOUD RIFAAT (EGYPTIAN)

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5. FAISAL MUHAMMAD FAISAL (SAUDI)
6. KHALED IBN MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH AL-ZAMEL (SAUDI)
7. MUSAED IBN SAUD MUHAMMAD AL-MUSALLAM (KUWAIT)
8. ALI IBN MAR'IE MUHAMMAD (SAUDI)
9. MUHAMMAD OMAR ELIAS (EGYPTIAN)
10. ABDULLAH IBN MUHAMMAD AHMED ISMAIL (SAUDI)

MEDINA:

1. ABDULLAH ALI AHMED BAHALIM (SOUTH YEMENI)
2. FAHD IBN HALLAL SUWAILEM (SAUDI)
3. ABDULLAH IBN MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM AL-RUMAIH (SAUDI)
4. ABDUL AZIZ IBN MUHAMMAD SULAIMAN AL-HESAN (SAUDI)
5. KAMAL AHMED HASSAN (EGYPTIAN)
6. ABDULLAH IBN ISMAIL
6. ABDULLAH IBN ISMAIL AL-OSSAIMI (SAUDI)

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
INR-10 PA-02 /076 W

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O 101154Z JAN 80
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8580
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SA PRIORITY
USLO RIYADH PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 JIDDA 00210

7. AHMED HAJJAJ MAHMOUD AHMED (EGYPTIAN)

DAMMAM:

1. SALEH ABDUL FATTAH MOUSSA AL-RUKH (EGYPTIAN)
2. HASSAN MUHAMMAD SALEM MOHSEN BAJNAF (SOUTH YEMENI)
3. AHMED IBN HASSAN AL-AQDI (SAUDI)
4. MUHAMMAD IBN ABDUL RAHMAN AL-OBALDI (KUWAITI)
5. TURKI IBN SALEH SLAIH (SAUDI)
6. OWALDH IBN HABIB EIBAN (SAUDI)
7. ALI MUHAMMAD QASSEM ABDULLAH (NORTH YEMENI)

BURAIDAH:

1. JABER IBN AHMED HASSAN (SAUDI)
2. ALI IBN MUHAMMAD IBN ABDULLAH SHOAIB (SAUDI)
3. HAMED AHMED IBRAHIM YOUNUS (EGYPTIAN)

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4. SAID IBN ATIAH ALLAH AL-SUBHI (SAUDI)
 5. ABBAS IBN ABDULLAH SAQR THALLAB (SAUDI)
 6. YUSLAM SALEH NASSER BAQATMI (SOUTH YEMENI)
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7. SALEH IBN MUHAMMAD SALEH (SAUDI)

HAIL:

1. IBRAHIM PASHA IBN MATAR AL-SUBHI (SAUDI)
2. MUHAMMAD IBN MOIDH AL-SADR SALEH AL-HAMMADI (SAUDI)
3. MUHAMMAD IBN DAKHEELALLAH AL-SHAYEHI (SAUDI)
4. MUHAMMAD ABU KHISHAH IBN ABDULLAH (SAUDI)
5. HASSAN IBRAHIM BAYOUMI (EGYPTIAN)

ABHA:

1. ABDUL MOHSIN IBN ALI AL-HUDHAINI (SAUDI)
2. SULTAN IBN HAMAD IBRAHIM AL-MAHWAS (SAUDI)
3. AWADH IBN MISHAL AWADH ABDUL KOHL (SAUDI)
4. ATEQ IBN MUHAMMAD ATALLAH (SAUDI)
5. MAROUK IBN BATTA' MARZOUK AL-BISHRI (SAUDI)
6. AHMED MAHMOUD ALI HUSSEIN (EGYPTIAN)
7. MUHAMMAD IBN SAMIH HAMAD AL-SHAFAI (SAUDI)

TABUK:

1. ALI IBN AHMED IBN ALI (SAUDI)
2. MUHAMMAD HASSAN MUHAMMAD SADEQ (EGYPTIAN)
3. AHMED SNAN MUHAMMAD (SOUTH YEMENI)
4. MUHAMMAD IBN ABDULLAH IBN MUHAMMAD AL-RAEQI (SAUDI)
5. ABDULLAH IBN MARIKHAN FAHAID SAIFI (SAUDI)

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 25240 01 OF 07 231457Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO	OCT-01	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-12	SS-15	OIC-02	AF-10
	CIAE-00	H-01	IO-15	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	SY-05
	HA-06	L-03	PM-09	PA-01	MCT-02	SSM-03	INRE-00
	SSN-02	ICAE-00	SYE-00	FBIE-00	SP-02	SPRS-02	/112 W

-----211021 231559Z /41

O 231424Z OCT 81
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8278
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHINGTON DC// PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 07 CAIRO 25240

E.O. 12065: GDS 10/21/87 (PRECHT, HENRY) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SOCI, EG
SUBJECT: (C) THE "AL-TAKFIR W'AL-HIJRA" SOCIETY:
- ITS ORIGINS AND ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY. ONE OF THE ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH SADAT'S OCTOBER 6 ASSASSINATION AND THE SUBSEQUENT VIOLENCE IN ASYUT IS THE "AL-TAKFIR W'AL-HIJRA" SOCIETY. ORGANIZED OVER TEN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUN 2006 200505106

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YEARS AGO BY A FORMER MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD (MB) SUPPORTER, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" APPARENTLY HAS NO DIRECT LINKS TO THE MB OR ANY OTHER ISLAMIC SOCIETY IN EGYPT, ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SOME OF THESE GROUPS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS AND THEIR "MEMBERSHIPS" MAY TO SOME EXTENT BE INTERLOCKING. IN TERMS OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IDEOLOGY, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" DIFFERS LITTLE FROM THE MB AND SEVERAL OTHER FUNDAMENTALIST ORGANIZATIONS. WHAT DISTINGUISHES "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" SUPPORTERS IS THEIR TOTAL COMMITMENT TO PERSONAL MARTYRDOM FOR THE SAKE OF "TRUE ISLAM". IN COMMON WITH MOST OTHER ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS IN EGYPT, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" STRONGLY OPPOSES THOSE FOREIGN FORCES IT CONSIDERS MOST ANTAGONISTIC TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRULY ISLAMIC STATE ("CAPITALIST IMPERIALISM", COMMUNISM, AND ZIONISM), BUT IT HAS NEVER DIRECTED ITS TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AGAINST THESE TARGETS. IN THE MAIN, ITS PENCHANT FOR TERRORISM HAS BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN REGIME ITSELF AND HAS INCLUDED ASSASSINATIONS, BOMBINGS AND COUP-PLOTTING. DESPITE REPEATED GOE FORAYS AGAINST "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" ADHERENTS OVER THE YEARS, THE ORGANIZATION HAS CONTINUED TO FLOURISH. THIS HAS BEEN DUE TO THE MOVEMENT'S METHOD OF RECRUITMENT AND TO THE STRONG CONTROL WHICH IT EXERCISES OVER ITS MEMBERSHIP. TH ONE STUDY WHICH HAS BEEN MADE ON THE ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERSHIP DISCLOSED MOST WERE FROM UPPER EGYPT, BETWEEN THE AGES OF 17 AND 26 WHEN THEY BECAME FULL MEMBERS, AND WERE UNUSUALLY HIGHLY MOTIVATED. MORE SURPRISING WAS THE DISCOVERY THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" ENCOMPASSED PEOPLE FROM

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ALL ECONOMIC CLASSES, AND THAT MOST MEMBERS CAME FROM NORMAL, COHESIVE FAMILIES. THE GROUP'S TEACHINGS EMPHASIZE AND PREPARE MEMBERS FOR MAXIMUM PERSONAL SACRIFICE, AND IT IS THIS MILITANCY AND THE WILLINGNESS TO USE VIOLENCE WHICH PROBABLY MAKES "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" A GREATER THREAT IN THE SHORT-TERM THAN THE MUCH LARGER (AND MORE AMORPHOUS) "ISLAMIC GROUP" AND OTHER FUNDAMENTALIST ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE ACCESS AND WILLINGNESS TO USE ARMS HAS YET TO BE DEMONSTRATED. END SUMMARY.

3. INTRODUCTION:

ONE OF THE ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED BY BOTH PRESS AND GOE SOURCES IN CONNECTION WITH SADAT'S OCTOBER 6 ASSASSINATION AND THE SUBSEQUENT VIOLENCE IN

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ASYUT IS THE "AL-TAKFIR W'AL-HIJRA" SOCIETY. ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR OVER A DECADE, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" (LITERALLY, "ATONEMENT AND HOLY FLIGHT") IS PRINCIPALLY REMEMBERED FOR ITS JULY 1977 KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF A DISTINGUISHED EGYPTIAN RELIGIOUS SCHOLAR AND FORMER MINISTER. MANY OF THE GROUP'S LEADERS WERE IMPRISONED AFTER THIS EPISODE, AND SOME WERE EXECUTED. DURING ITS INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT, THE GOE WAS SURPRISED BY THE APPARENT SIZE OF THE ORGANIZATION (3-5000) AND, AFTERWARDS, MONITORED ITS ACTIVITIES AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, SINCE 1977, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE INROADS INTO VARIOUS LEVELS OF EGYPTIAN SOCIETY, AIDED BY A GENERAL REVIVAL IN ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST SENTIMENT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE, A TREND FIRST GIVEN IMPETUS BY THE ARABH' CRUSHING DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF ISRAEL IN 1967. UNDERSTANDABLY, THIS DEVELOPMENT, PLUS "TAKFIR WA HIJRA'S" CONTINUED ADVOCACY OF VIOLENT

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO	OCT-01	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-12	SS-15	OIC-02	AF-10
	CIAE-00	H-01	IO-15	NSAE-00	SSO-00	SY-05	HA-06
	L-03	PM-09	PA-01	MCT-02	SSM-03	INRE-00	SSN-02
	ICAE-00	SYE-00	FBIE-00	SP-02	SPRS-02	/112 W	
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O 231424Z OCT 81
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8279
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHINGTON DC// PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 07 CAIRO 25240

MEANS TO REALIZE ITS GOALS, WORRIED THE REGIME AND WAS THE MAIN REASON WHY THE GOE FOCUSED ON "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" AS ONE OF ITS LEADING TARGETS DURING THE SEPTEMBER 2-3 ROUND-UP OF THE REGIME'S RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR OPPONENTS. INDEED, OF THE 804 MEMBERS OF RADICAL MUSLIM SOCIETIES ARRESTED BY GOE AT THAT TIME, 469 WERE DESCRIBED BY SADAT AS MEMBERS OF "TAKFIR WA
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HIJRA" (CAIRO 21872). IN HINDSIGHT, EVEN THIS TOUGH POSTURE APPARENTLY WAS NOT TOUGH ENOUGH, AND INTEREST IN "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" HAS BEEN REKINDLED WITH REPORTS OF ITS CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT IN VIOLENT ACTIVITIES. THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE "AL-TAKFIR W'AL-HIJRA" SOCIETY, INCLUDING ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD AND OTHER ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST ORGANIZATIONS, ITS INTELLECTUAL ROOTS AND PROGRAM, AND ITS PAST ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATION IN EGYPT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN IS DRAWN FROM RESEARCH INTO ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM BY EGYPTIAN ACADEMICS, WRITINGS BY "TAKFIR-HIJRA" FOUNDER SHUKRI MUSTAFA, PLUS INFORMATION ON THE SOCIETY WHICH HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE CAIRO PRESS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS SINCE 1975.

4. RELATIONSHIP TO THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD AND OTHER ISLAMIC SOCIETIES:
THE DEPARTURE POINT FOR ANY EXAMINATION OF THE ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST MOVEMENT IN EGYPT IS USUALLY THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD (MB). FOUNDED IN EGYPT IN THE 1930S BY SHAYKH HASAN AL-BANNA, THE MB DURING ITS HEYDAY AS THE MOST FANATIC AND INFLUENTIAL ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION IN THE ARAB WORLD AND SERVED AS THE MODEL FOR SEVERAL EQUALLY FANATICAL ISLAMIC SOCIETIES IN EGYPT AND ELSEWHERE. "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" IS ONE OF THESE LATTER ORGANIZATIONS. FROM INFORMATION WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER, IT APPEARS TO HAVE NO DIRECT LINK TO THE MB

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OR ANY OTHER ISLAMIC SOCIETY, IN CONTRAST TO THE MUCH LARGER "ISLAMIC GROUP" WHICH THE LATE PRESIDENT SADAT CHARACTERIZED IN SEPTEMBER AS THE NEW "SECRET ARM" OF THE MB. (COMMENT: SADAT WAS THE FIRST GOE OFFICIAL TO DESCRIBE THE "ISLAMIC GROUP" IN THESE
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TERMS. PRIOR TO HIS SEPTEMBER COMMENTS, THE "ISLAMIC GROUP" WAS REGARDED MORE OR LESS AS A LOOSELY-ORGANIZED UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF LARGELY FUNDAMENTALIST SOCIETIES, MOST OF WHICH WERE ACTIVE PRINCIPALLY ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES. ALTHOUGH INDIVIDUAL LEADERS OF SOME OF THE LARGER SOCIETIES WERE IDENTIFIABLE, THERE WAS LITTLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE INDICATING A HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE FOR THE "ISLAMIC GROUP" PER SE. SOME OF THE GROUP'S COMPONENT SOCIETIES WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE CLOSE LINKS TO THE MB, BUT THERE SEEMED TO BE A MARKED DIFFERENCE AMONG THE ISLAMIC SOCIETIES AS A WHOLE AS TO THE DEGREE OF THEIR "ACTIVISM" AND THEIR INCLINATION TO CONFRONT THE GOE ON VARIOUS POLITICAL MATTERS. SINCE THE SEPTEMBER CRACKDOWN, THE REGIME HAS RELEASED FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE "ISLAMIC GROUP" WHICH POINTS TO SOME KIND OF CENTRALIZED COMMAND. FOR EXAMPLE, A 26 YEAR OLD DOCTOR, HILMI AL-JAZZAR, HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE OVERALL COMMANDER ("AMIR OF THE AMIRS") OF VARIOUS ISLAMIC SOCIETIES WHICH COMPRISE THE "ISLAMIC GROUP"-- AN INDICATION THAT IT POSSESSES AT LEAST SOME DEGREE OF COHESION OR ORGANIZATION, AND VERY LIKELY SOME MECHANISM FOR PROMOTING COORDINATION AMONG ITS VARIOUS CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES. END COMMENT.)

5. THIS SAID, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" IS BEST DEFINED AS A DIRECT OUTGROWTH OF THE MB, AND THE ORGANIZATION'S FOUNDER, SHUKRI AHMAD MUSTAFA, WAS ORIGINALLY AN MB MEMBER. ARRESTED ALONG WITH MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN NASIR'S 1965 CLAMPDOWN ON THE BROTHERHOOD, SHUKRI REPORTEDLY BECAME DISILLUSIONED AS A RESULT OF SEEING HIS FELLOW MB MEMBERS BREAKING DOWN UNDER TORTURE AND RESORTING TO

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO	OCT-01	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-12	SS-15	OIC-02	AF-10
	CIAE-00	H-01	IO-15	NSAE-00	SSO-00	SY-05	HA-06
	L-03	PM-09	PA-01	MCT-02	SSM-03	INRE-00	SSN-02
	ICAE-00	SYE-00	FBIE-00	SP-02	SPRS-02	/112 W	

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O 231424Z OCT 81
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8280
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHINGTON DC// PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 07 CAIRO 25240

PETTY SQUABBLING AMONG THEMSELVES WHILE IN CONFINEMENT.
IF ANYTHING, SHUKRI'S PRISON EXPERIENCE MADE HIM AN EVEN
MORE MILITANT BELIEVER IN THE MB'S TEACHINGS AND RADICAL
VISION OF HISTDRY. CONSIDERING MOST OF HIS FELLOW
BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS TO HAVE LOST THEIR ENTHUSIASM AND
THEIR MILITANCY, SHUKRI LOCATED LIKE-MINDED "TRUE
BELIEVERS" AMONG HIS FELLOW PRISONERS AND FOUNDED THE
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FIRST CELL OF HIS NASCENT ORGANIZATION WHILE HE WAS STILL
IN JAIL. UPON GAINING HIS FREEDOM IN 1971 UNDER SADAT'S
GENERAL AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS DETAINEES,

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SHUKRI BEGAN TO PROSELYTIZE AND ORGANIZE. HE SOON RECRUITED SEVERAL HUNDRED MEN AND WOMEN INTO WHAT WAS AT FIRST CALLED THE "JAMA'AT AL-MUSLIMIN" OR "MUSLIM GROUP". THE EGYPTIAN PRESS, HOWEVER, DUBBED SHUKRI'S GROUP "TAKFIR WA HIJRA", A NAME WHICH IT SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED.

6. IN ITS POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ORIENTATION, SHUKRI'S GROUP DIFFERED LITTLE FROM THE MB OR THE ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST ORGANIZATIONS WHICH CAME TO COMPRISE THE "ISLAMIC GROUP". WHAT DISTINGUISHED "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" SUPPORTERS WAS THEIR TOTAL AND ALMOST EXCLUSIVE COMMITMENT TO PERSONAL MARTYRDOM FOR THE SAKE OF "TRUE ISLAM", A COMMITMENT MATCHED BY ONLY ONE OTHER ORGANIZATION IN THE 1970'S--"SHIBAB MUHAMMAD" (MUHAMMAD'S YOUTH), WHICH LAUNCHED AN ABORTIVE COUP D'ETAT AGAINST SADAT IN THE APRIL 1974 TECHNICAL MILITARY ACADEMY INCIDENT. (FYI: SOME RECENT PRESS REPORTS HAVE INCORRECTLY LINKED "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" WITH BOTH THIS INCIDENT AND "SHIBAB MUHAMMAD"; WHILE BOTH ORGANIZATIONS SHARE SIMILAR INTELLECTUAL ORIGINS AND OUTLOOK, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THEIR HAVING COLLABORATED TO ANY GREAT DEGREE. WHILE "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" CONTINUED TO FLOURISH AFTER ITS 1977 RUN-IN WITH THE GOE, "SHIBAB MUHAMMAD" HAS NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE SINCE 1974. END FYI).

7. IN RECENT YEARS, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" HAS DROPPED SOME OF ITS ALOOFNESS, EVINCING A TENDENCY TOWARD INCREASED CONTACTS, AND PROBABLY HEIGHTENED INTERACTION, WITH THE "ISLAMIC GROUP" AND OTHER FUNDAMENTALIST
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SOCIETIES. FOR ITS PART, GOE CLEARLY BELIEVES "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" DID MORE THAN CONFINE SUCH INTERACTION TO WORDS. ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED, THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS ACCUSED BOTH "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" AND THE "ISLAMIC GROUP" (AMONG OTHERS) OF PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT THE OCT. 8-12 VIOLENCE AT ASYUT.

8. IN ESSENCE, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" AS AN EXCLUSIVIST ISLAMIC PROTEST MOVEMENT FINDS CONSIDERABLE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE 7TH CENTURY "KHARIJITE" MOVEMENT. THE LATTER PROVIDED THE FIRST SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO MAINSTREAM SUNNI BELIEFS AND OPPOSED THE KHALIF ALI (AND HIS SUCCESSORS) AS UN-ISLAMIC TYRANTS AND ADVOCATED THEIR VIOLENT OVERTHROW. IN SUBSEQUENT CENTURIES, KHARIJITE BELIEFS WERE COMPILED, SYNTHESIZED, AND EXPANDED UPON BY

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NUMEROUS ISLAMIC SCHOLARS AND REFORMERS. THEY INFLUENCED SUCH FORMIDABLE THINKERS AS IBN TAYMIYA (14TH CENTURY), MUHAMMAD IBN ABD AL-WAHAB (18TH CENTURY) AND JAMAL AL-DIN AL-AFGHANI (19TH CENTURY), AMONG OTHERS. IN TURN, THE WRITINGS OF THESE THINKERS HAVE HAD STRONG IMPACT ON THE LEADERS OF "TAKFIR WA HIJRA". ALONG WITH THE WRITINGS OF MB FOUNDER, HASAN AL-BANNA, AND SAYYID QUTB (ESPECIALLY HIS "LANDMARKS ALONG THE ROAD" WHICH ADVOCATES THE VIOLENT OVERTHROW OF REGIMES NOT APPLYING ISLAMIC LAW), THEY CONSTITUTE MUCH OF THE INTELLECTUAL UNDERPINNINGS FOR "TAKFIR WA HIJRA'S" POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC PROGRAM. IN CONTRAST, THE WORK OF MUHAMMAD ABDOH AND OTHER "MODERNISTS" WHO ADVOCATED A Milder AND

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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MORE SECULARIST APPROACH TO REVITALIZING
ISLAM, HAVE HAD LITTLE INFLUENCE. (THE SAME IS TRUE FOR
OTHER FUNDAMENTALIST ORGANIZATIONS.)

9. IN BROAD FORM, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" ADVOCATES THE
ESTABLISHMENT (BY VIOLENT MEANS IF NECESSARY) OF AN
IDEALIZED ISLAMIC SOCIETY, NOT ONLY IN EGYPT BUT IN THE
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MUSLIM WORLD GENERALLY. THE CURRENT REGIME IN EGYPT
(AS IN MOST ISLAMIC COUNTRIES) IS CONSIDERED A CORRUPT
ABERRATION FROM THE IDEAL ISLAMIC COMMUNITY (THE "UMMA")
DESCRIBED IN THE QUR'AN. THE "ULAMA", OR MUSLIM CLERI-
CAL ESTABLISHMENT IN EGYPT IS SHARPLY CRITICIZED FOR
BEING, AT BEST, STATE EMPLOYEES AND BUREAUCRATS OR, MORE
COMMONLY, DANGEROUS HYPOCRITES AND OPPORTUNISTS WHO
OBSTRUCT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRUE ISLAMIC SOCIETY
IN EGYPT.

10. NOT SURPRISINGLY, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA'S"
PRESCRIPTION FOR REORDERING EGYPTIAN SOCIETY CONTAINS
LITTLE IN THE WAY OF PRACTICAL DETAIL, ALTHOUGH THERE
ARE SOME GENERAL SIMILARITIES TO THE STATED (BUT NOT
PRACTICED) GOALS OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC IN IRAN. POLI-
TICALLY, THE STATE WOULD BE HEADED BY A LEADER (OR "AMIR")
WHO WOULD BE SELECTED BY THE MUSLIM FAITHFUL. THIS
LEADER ("COMMANDER OF THE FAITHFUL") WOULD BE EXPECTED
TO BE PIOUS, JUST AND TO ABIDE BY THE "SHARI'A" (ISLAMIC
LAW). IN THE EVENT HE TRANSGRESSED THE "SHARI'A", HE
COULD BE REPLACED. IN ADDITION, A "SHURA" (CONSULTATIVE)
COUNCIL WOULD BE ESTABLISHED. THIS COUNCIL WOULD HAVE NO
LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY IN MATTERS COVERED BY THE "SHARI'A",
BUT IT WOULD CHOOSE AMONG ALTERNATIVE INTERPRETATIONS ON
MATTERS APPEARING IN THE "SHARI'A". IT WOULD ALSO HAVE
AUTHORITY TO LEGISLATE ON MATTERS THAT ARE NOT DEALT WITH
DIRECTLY IN ISLAMIC LAW. MOREOVER, IT WOULD BE THE
COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MONITOR THE BEHAVIOR OF THE

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REGIME'S LEADERS, TO HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE, AND TO REMOVE THEM FROM OFFICE IF THIS WERE WARRANTED. INDEED, ONE OF THE RECURRENT THEMES OF SHUKRI MUSTAFA'S WRITINGS IS THE BELIEF THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF TRUE MUSLIMS TO ROOT OUT INJUSTICE AND MISGUIDANCE WHEREVER THEY FIND IT, EVEN

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IF THE COMMUNITY'S LEADERS ARE THE GUILTY PARTIES.

11. CONSISTENT WITH THESE POLITICAL VIEWS, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA'S" PRINCIPAL SOCIAL COMMITMENT IS TO "THE WEAK", AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE ARE TWO OF THE BENCHMARKS OF THE ORGANIZATION'S OVERALL PROGRAM. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, THAT "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" BELIEVES IN A CLASSLESS SOCIETY; ON THE CONTRARY, SHUKRI MUSTAFA AND OTHERS INTERPRET QUR'ANIC PASSAGES TO MEAN THAT GOD HAS GRANTED DIFFERENT TALENTS AND ATTRIBUTES TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE. WHAT IS FORBIDDEN IS EXTRAVAGANT OR OSTENTATIOUS LIVING. PRIVATE PROPERTY (IN MODERATION) IS SANCTIONED, BUT ALL WEALTH MUST BE SHARED, NOT ONLY ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, BUT ON A COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY BASIS AS WELL. SOCIALISM AS SUCH IS NOT MENTIONED IN SHUKRI'S WRITINGS, BUT PUBLIC UTILITIES ARE TO BE NATIONALIZED FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY.

12. IN COMMON WITH OTHER EGYPTIAN FUNDAMENTALIST SOCIETIES (INCLUDING THE MB, THE "ISLAMIC GROUP", AND HALWAN SHAYKH BADRI'S "SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF VIRTUE AND THE ELIMINATION OF VICE"), "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" STRONGLY ATTACKS THOSE FOREIGN FORCES IT CONSIDERS MOST ANTAGONISTIC OR HARMFUL TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRULY ISLAMIC STATE. THESE ARE DEFINED AS WESTERN "CAPITALIST IMPERIALISM", COMMUNISM, AND ZIONISM. THUS FAR, NONE OF "TAKFIR WA HIJRA'S" TERRORIST ACTIVITIES (OR THOSE OF ANY OTHER LOCAL RELIGIOUS GROUP FOR THAT MATTER) HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AGAINST NON-EGYPTIAN TARGETS, BUT THIS MUST BE CONSIDERED A POSSIBILITY IF THE GOE IS UNABLE TO BRING SUCH GROUPS UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL. IN THIS REGARD, IT IS WORTH RECALLING THAT IN THE 1960S THE MB WAS ALLEGEDLY PLANNING TO ASSASSINATE SEVERAL FOREIGN AMBASSADORS AS PART OF ITS PLAN TO DESTABILIZE NASIR'S

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8282
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
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REGIME. NASIR'S HARSH CRACK-DOWN ON THE MB AT
THAT TIME PREVENTED FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THESE PLANS.

13. PAST "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT:
THE FOUNDER OF "TAKFIR WA HIJRA", SHUKRI AHMAD MUSTAFA,
WAS BORN IN ASYUT IN UPPER EGYPT AND AT THE TIME OF HIS
DEATH WAS IN HIS MID-THIRTIES. FOLLOWING HIS 1971 RELEASE
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FROM JAIL FOR HIS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN MB ACTIVITIES,
SHUKRI BEGAN TO SPREAD HIS MESSAGE WITH INCREASING
EFFECTIVENESS. ALTHOUGH MOST OF SHUKRI'S SUPPORTERS

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WERE FROM UPPER EGYPT, HIS MOVEMENT BEGAN TO GET A FOOTHOLD IN THE UNIVERSITIES AND IN THE MILITARY AS HIS SUPPORTERS BEGAN SEEKING HIGHER DEGREES OR WERE CONSCRIPTED INTO THE ARMY FOR THEIR REQUIRED NATIONAL SERVICE. IN THEORY, SHUKRI WANTED TO ESTABLISH A WORKING EXAMPLE OF THE PERFECT ISLAMIC COMMUNITY, PRIOR TO MOVING TO OVERTHROW THE EXISTING REGIME. TWO SITES WERE SELECTED, ONE SOUTH OF HALWAN NEAR CAIRO, AND THE OTHER NEAR MINYA IN UPPER EGYPT.

14. IN MAY 1975, THE ORGANIZATION FIRST CLASHED WITH THE REGIME WHEN THE GOE ARRESTED SEVERAL PEOPLE FOR PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT, ALLEGEDLY WITH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE (THE PRESS HINTED AT LIBYA). MOST OF THE ARRESTS WERE MADE AT SHUKRI'S MINYA SETTLEMENT, BUT WHILE HE WAS ONE OF THOSE MOST WANTED BY THE AUTHORITIES, HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE. IN AUGUST 1976, GOE ONCE AGAIN ATTEMPTED TO BREAK UP "TAKFIR WA HIJRA". SEVERAL MORE MEMBERS WERE ARRESTED, SOME ON CHARGES OF HAVING MURDERED A FELLOW MEMBER WHO HAD TRIED TO LEAVE THE ORGANIZATION.

15. THESE ARRESTS WERE THE PRELUDE TO "TAKFIR WA HIJRA'S" CONFRONTATION WITH THE REGIME THE FOLLOWING SUMMER. IN JULY 1977 -- IN AN ACT WHICH EPITOMIZED THE ORGANIZATION'S HOSTILITY TOWARDS EGYPT'S REGULAR RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT--SEVERAL "TAKFIR" MEMBERS PRETENDING TO BE POLICEMEN KIDNAPPED SHAYKH HUSAYN AL-DHAHABI, ONE OF EGYPT'S LEADING RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS AND A FORMER MINISTER FOR RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS. AL-DHAHABI WAS ALSO
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A STRONG OPPONENT OF ISLAMIC FANATICISM AND HAD WRITTEN SEVERAL ARTICLES CRITICAL OF THIS MOVEMENT IN GENERAL AND OF "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" IN PARTICULAR.

16. SHUKRI AND HIS SUPPORTERS MADE SEVERAL DEMANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THEY CHARGED GOE WITH MISTREATING "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" MEMBERS SEIZED IN 1975-76 AND SAID THESE MEMBERS SHOULD EITHER BE PUT ON TRIAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "SHARI'A" OR RELEASED. IN ADDITION, THEY DEMANDED LE 500,000 IN COMPENSATION AND (FOR A WHILE) SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF THE COUNTRY. WHEN GOE FAILED TO RESPOND TO THESE DEMANDS, AL-DHAHABI WAS KILLED.

17. PRESIDENT SADAT AND EGYPTIANS IN GENERAL WERE OUTRAGED BY THIS ACT, AND THE AUTHORITIES CRACKED DOWN ON

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"TAKFIR WA HIJRA" WITH A VENGEANCE. MEANWHILE, THE ORGANIZATION LAUNCHED A BRIEF BOMBING CAMPAIGN IN CAIRO AND ELSEWHERE IN EGYPT. ONE POPULAR MOVIE THEATER IN THE MUHANDISIN DISTRICT OF CAIRO WAS BOMBED, AS WAS THE INSTITUTE FOR ORIENTAL ART IN ZAMALEK (THE LATTER BECAUSE IT WAS OWNED BY THE MINISTRY FOR RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS). ANOTHER BOMB WENT OFF IN CAIRO'S CENTRALLY LOCATED 'ATABA SQUARE, FORTUNATELY WITH NO CASUALTIES, AND A FOURTH EXPLOSION IN A DELTA FACTORY WAS LIKEWISE BLAMED ON "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" PARTISANS. ULTIMATELY, GOE ARRESTED 204 MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND PUT THEM ON TRIAL. THIRTY-EIGHT OF THESE WERE FOUND GUILTY OF VARIOUS SERIOUS CRIMES; FIVE (INCLUDING SHUKRI MUSTAFA) WERE EXECUTED, AND THE REMAINDER WERE SENTENCED TO PRISON TERMS. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL OTHERS WANTED BY THE AUTHORITIES MANAGED TO ESCAPE, AND IT WAS WIDELY ASSUMED THAT SOME TOOK REFUGE IN SAUDI ARABIA AND LATER PARTICIPATED WITH JUHAYMAN AL-UTAYBI'S "IKHWAN" GROUP IN THE 1979 SEIZURE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE AT MECCA (NOTE: WE RECALL

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8283
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
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THAT THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES PUBLICLY ADMITTED THAT SEVERAL FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING EGYPTIANS, ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE MECCA INCIDENT; JUHAYMAN'S WRITINGS AND BELIEFS APPEAR TO BEAR CONSIDERABLE RESEMBLANCE TO "TAKFIR WA HIJRA'S" TENETS.)

18. THE GOE'S INVESTIGATION OF THE "TAKFIR WA HIJRA"
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SOCIETY DISCLOSED SEVERAL DISTURBING FACTS. FIRST, THE ORGANIZATION WAS MUCH LARGER THAN HAD BEEN BELIEVED INITIALLY. ACCURATE FIGURES WERE HARD TO PINPOINT, BUT GOE ESTIMATED ITS MEMBERSHIP AT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 3-5000 FULL-FLEDGED MEMBERS. SECOND, THE SOCIOLOGICAL SPREAD OF THE ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERSHIP WAS QUITE COMPREHENSIVE AND INCLUDED PEOPLE WITH LOWER, LOWER MIDDLE, AND EVEN UPPER MIDDLE CLASS BACKGROUNDS. THIRD--AND PERHAPS MOST UNSETTLING--"TAKFIR WA HIJRA" HAD APPARENTLY BEEN ABLE TO INFILTRATE THE ARMED FORCES, AND IN MID-JULY 1977, "AL-AHRAM" ANNOUNCED THAT SEVERAL OF THE PEOPLE ARRESTED IN THE "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" CRACKDOWN WERE ARMY OFFICERS AND NCOS.

19. ORGANIZATIONS:
DESPITE REPEATED GOE PURGES OF "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" AND THE EXECUTION OF SHUKRI MUSTAFA IN MARCH 1978, THE ORGANIZATION HAS APPARENTLY CONTINUED TO GROW. THIS WAS FACILITATED BY "TAKFIR WA HIJRA'S" METHOD OF RECRUITMENT THROUGH KINSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP AND ITS POTENT USE OF RELIGION. IT WAS ALSO AIDED BY THE STRONG CONTROL EXERCISED BY THE SOCIETY'S LEADERSHIP OVER THE MOVEMENT'S FOLLOWERS WHICH ENABLED THEM TO HOLD THE ORGANIZATION TOGETHER AND CONTINUE THEIR RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES, EVEN WHEN SO MANY OF THEIR COLLEAGUES WERE ARRESTED AND JAILED. IT WAS THIS ELEMENT OF CONTROL, WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE AND DISCIPLINE, WHICH IS PERHAPS THE GREATEST DISTINGUISHING

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FEATURE BETWEEN "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" AND OTHER FUNDAMENTALIST ISLAMIC GROUPS LIKE THE MB OR THE EQUALLY FANATICAL (IF MORE DEMOCRATIC) "SHIBAB MUHAMMAD".

20. IN ONE (UNPUBLISHED) SOCIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF
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ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM IN EGYPT, A GROUP OF PROMINENT EGYPTIAN RESEARCHERS HAVE PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE INSIGHT INTO THE TYPES OF PEOPLE WHO JOINED "TAKFIR WA HIJRA". IN GENERAL, MOST WERE YOUNG (17-26) AND HAD RURAL OR SMALL TOWN BACKGROUNDS; INVARIABLY, THEY WERE ALSO FROM UPPER EGYPT. THIS LATTER FACTOR WAS LARGELY DUE TO SHUKRI MUSTAFA'S ASYUT ORIGINS AND TO HIS USE OF KINSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP TO EXPAND THE BASE OF HIS ORGANIZATION. MOST "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" MEMBERS CAME TO CAIRO, ALEXANDRIA, OR ASYUT AFTER SECONDARY SCHOOL TO ENROLL IN UNIVERSITY. BEING BY THEMSELVES, THEY USUALLY LIVED ALONE OR HAD ROOMMATES. MOST TENDED TO HAVE MIDDLE OR LOWER MIDDLE CLASS BACKGROUNDS, BUT ALL CLASSES WERE REPRESENTED. SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, MOST CAME FROM NORMAL, COHESIVE FAMILIES. ONE KEY CHARACTERISTIC NOTED BY THE RESEARCHERS WAS THAT MOST STUDENT JOINERS OF THE MOVEMENT WERE WELL ABOVE AVERAGE IN TERMS OF BOTH MOTIVATION AND ACHIEVEMENT. LIKE SHUKRI MUSTAFA HIMSELF, WHO HAD A BSC DEGREE IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE, MOST HAD SCIENTIFIC OR ENGINEERING BACKGROUNDS. IN THIS RESPECT, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA", UNLIKE MANY OTHER ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST GROUPS, APPEARED FAR MORE HOMOGENEOUS.

21. IN TERMS OF ACTUAL ORGANIZATION, LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE GROUP'S STRUCTURE. WHILE SHUKRI WAS LEADER, OPEN DISCUSSION WAS ENCOURAGED, BUT HE HAD THE FINAL WORD. PRESUMABLY, HE HAD A SUCCESSOR WHO HAS SIMILAR AUTHORITY. IN ANY EVENT, THE ORGANIZATION, ITS ACTIVITIES AND GOALS BECAME THE SDLE WORLD FOR ITS MEMBERS. MUCH LIKE THE "MOONIES", THE PEOPLES TEMPLE ADHERENTS AT JONESTOWN AND OTHER NON-ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS FANATICS, "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" MEMBERS WERE AT ONE POINT REQUIRED TO SEVER ALL LINKS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND TO DESERT THEIR FAMILIES AND

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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
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THEIR JOBS FOR THE RAKE OF THE SOCIETY. AS NOTED ABOVE,
MUCH OF THE GROUP'S TEACHINGS EMPHASIZED AND PREPARED
MEMBERS FOR MAXIMUM PERSONAL SACRIFICE. CITING QUR'ANIC
PASSAGES SUGGESTING THAT THE HEAVENLY REWARDS FOR RELI-
GIOUS MARTYRS ARE BOUNDLESS, THE ORGANIZATION TAUGHT THAT
FEAR OR HESITATION TO DIE FOR ISLAM AMOUNTED TO
THE ULTIMATE BETRAYAL OF ONE'S RELIGION AND EMPHASIZED
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THAT CONCENTRATION ON THE JOY AND REWARDS OF MARTYRDOM
RENDERED EVEN THE WORST PHYSICAL TORTURE BY THE
ENEMIES OF ISLAM BEARABLE.

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22. CONCLUSION:

THE FULL EXTENT OF "TAKFIR WA HIJRA'S" INVOLVEMENT IN EVENTS IN EGYPT ON AND SINCE OCTOBER 6 IS NOT KNOWN. HOWEVER, EVEN IF IT HAD NO DIRECT CONNECTION WITH SADAT'S ASSASSINATION AND/OR THE ASYUT VIOLENCE (AND IT SEEMS LIKELY IT DID), THE MUBARAK REGIME WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE GROUP FORCEFULLY. "TAKFIR WA HIJRA'S" EXACT STRENGTH IS NOT KNOWN, BUT IT HAS PROBABLY GROWN SINCE 1977 AND, MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, MAY HAVE CONTINUED MAKING IN-ROADS INTO THE ARMED FORCES. IN TERMS OF NUMBERS AND POPULAR APPEAL, IT IS FAR LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN THE "ISLAMIC GROUP", BUT IN VIEW OF ITS MILITANCY AND WILLINGNESS TO USE VIOLENCE TO ACHIEVE ITS ENDS, IT PROBABLY REMAINS A GREATER SHORT-TERM THREAT. IN HIS OCTOBER 14 INAUGURAL ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, PRESIDENT MUBARAK INDICATED HIS REGIME WILL "SHOW NO MERCY" TO ITS OPPONENTS. THE CHALLENGE FACING HIS GOVERNMENT NOW AND IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IS TO ERADICATE THE THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER POSED BY "TAKFIR WA HIJRA" AND LIKE-MINDED FUNDAMENTALIST GROUPS IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT MAKE "MARTYRS" OF THEIR MEMBERS AND INSPIRE BROADER PUBLIC SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT, NOT TO MENTION NEW RECRUITS, FOR SUCH ORGANIZATIONS. ATHERTON

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 27777

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/23/87 (PRECHT, HENRY) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, SOCI, EG, SA
SUBJECT: MORE ARRESTS, MORE LINKS

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT NIGAH ABDALLAH, CONSIDERED ONE OF THE KEY FIGURES IN "AL-TAKFIR WAL HIGRA", WAS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED ON NOVEMBER 19TH IN UPPER EGYPT, ON A ISLAND NEAR ASSIUT. ABDALLAH IS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE TAKFIR "BRAINS" -- ALTHOUGH OF A LESSER RANK THAN MUHAMMAD ABD AL-SALAM FARAJ. AT ONE POINT EXPELLED FROM CAIRO UNIVERSITY BECAUSE OF HIS POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS ACTIVISM, ABDALLAH GRADUATED IN 1980 NOT ONLY AT THE TOP OF HIS CLASS BUT RANKED NUMBER ONE IN
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THE ENTIRE MEDICAL FACULTY. ABDALLAH IS BEING HELD IN ONE OF THE CAIRO AREA PRISONS AND HIS STATEMENTS DURING INTERROGATION HAVE REPORTEDLY LED TO THE ARREST OF OVER 20 ADDITIONAL "TAKFIR" FOLLOWERS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUN 2006 200505106

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2. WITH RESPECT TO OTHER RECENT ARRESTS, AS THE SWEEP THROUGHOUT EGYPT FOR TERRORISTS CONTINUES, SECURITY AUTHORITIES CLAIM THAT EVIDENCE HAS BEEN UNCOVERED LINKING SOME OF THE APPREHENDED EXTREMISTS WITH THE 1979 OCCUPATION OF THE GRAND MOSQUE AT MECCA. (NO NAMES OR NUMBERS WERE DIVULGED.) DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT TWO OR THREE EGYPTIANS WERE EXECUTED FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE MECCA INCIDENT.

3. COMMENT: NIGAH ABDALLAH'S HISTORY REFLECTS PART OF THE DILEMMA, AND ULTIMATELY TRAGIC WEAKNESS, OF SADAT'S WAVERING STRATEGY IN DEALING WITH EGYPTIAN FUNDAMENTALISTS. AFTER ABDALLAH'S EXPULSION FROM CAIRO UNIVERSITY DURING THE 1979/80 ACADEMIC YEAR, HE WAS PERMITTED TO RETURN TO THE UNIVERSITY AND TAKE HIS EXAMINATION - THE LOGIC BEING THAT SUCH A SHOW OF LENIENCY BY THE AUTHORITIES WOULD POSSIBLY SOFTEN HIS ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT OUTLOOK. INSTEAD - AFTER DISPLAYING HIS GENIUS BY OUTSTRIPPING FELLOW STUDENTS IN EXAMINATION RESULTS - ABDALLAH INDULGED IN EVER INCREASINGLY RADICAL ACTIVITIES AND IS BELIEVED TO BE IMPLICATED IN THE ASSASSINATION PLOT. ATHERTON

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